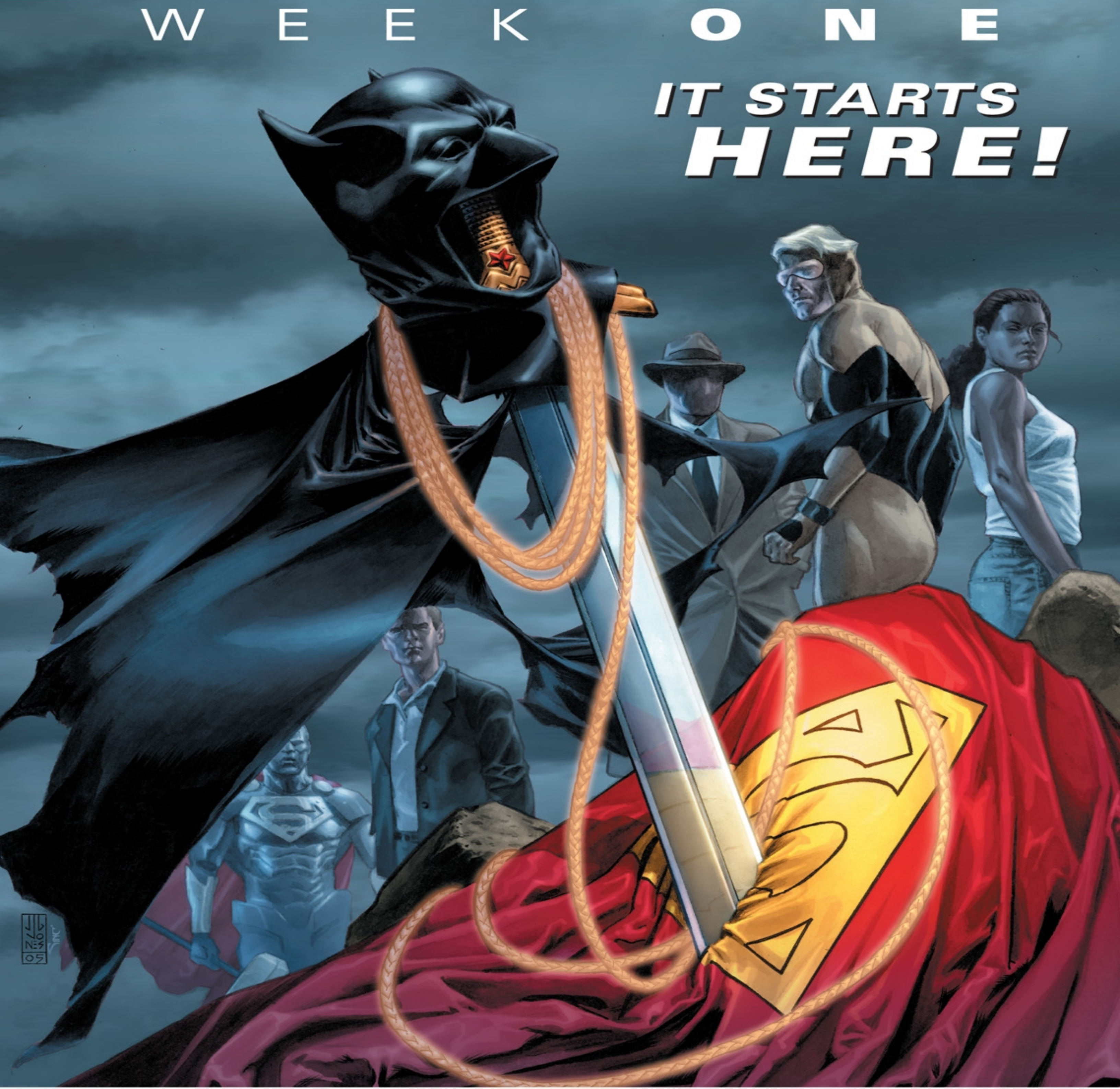
52

May 10, 2006

WEEK ONE



IT STARTS HERE!

WHERE ARE SUPERMAN, BATMAN, AND WONDER WOMAN? . . .

dccomics.com

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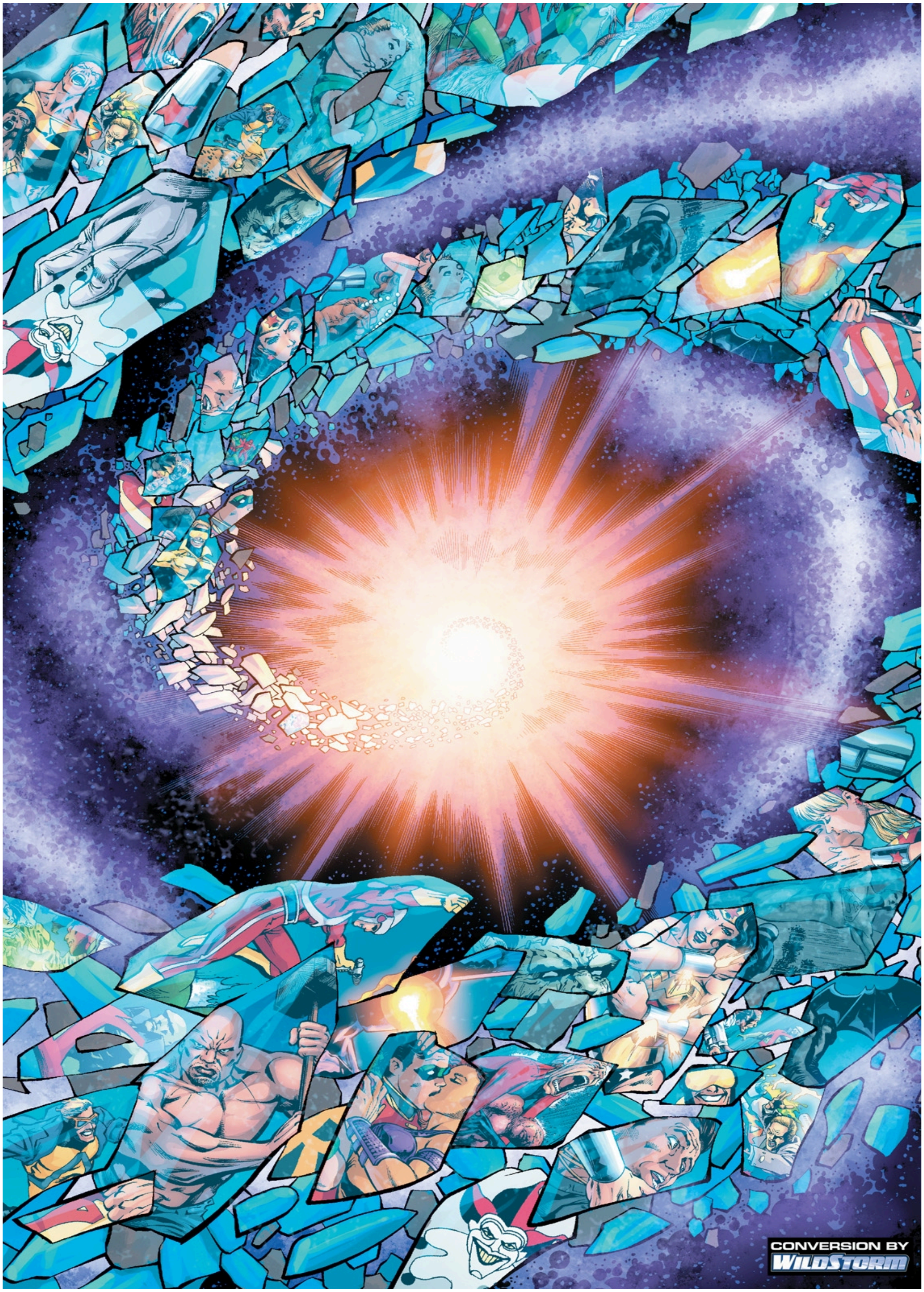
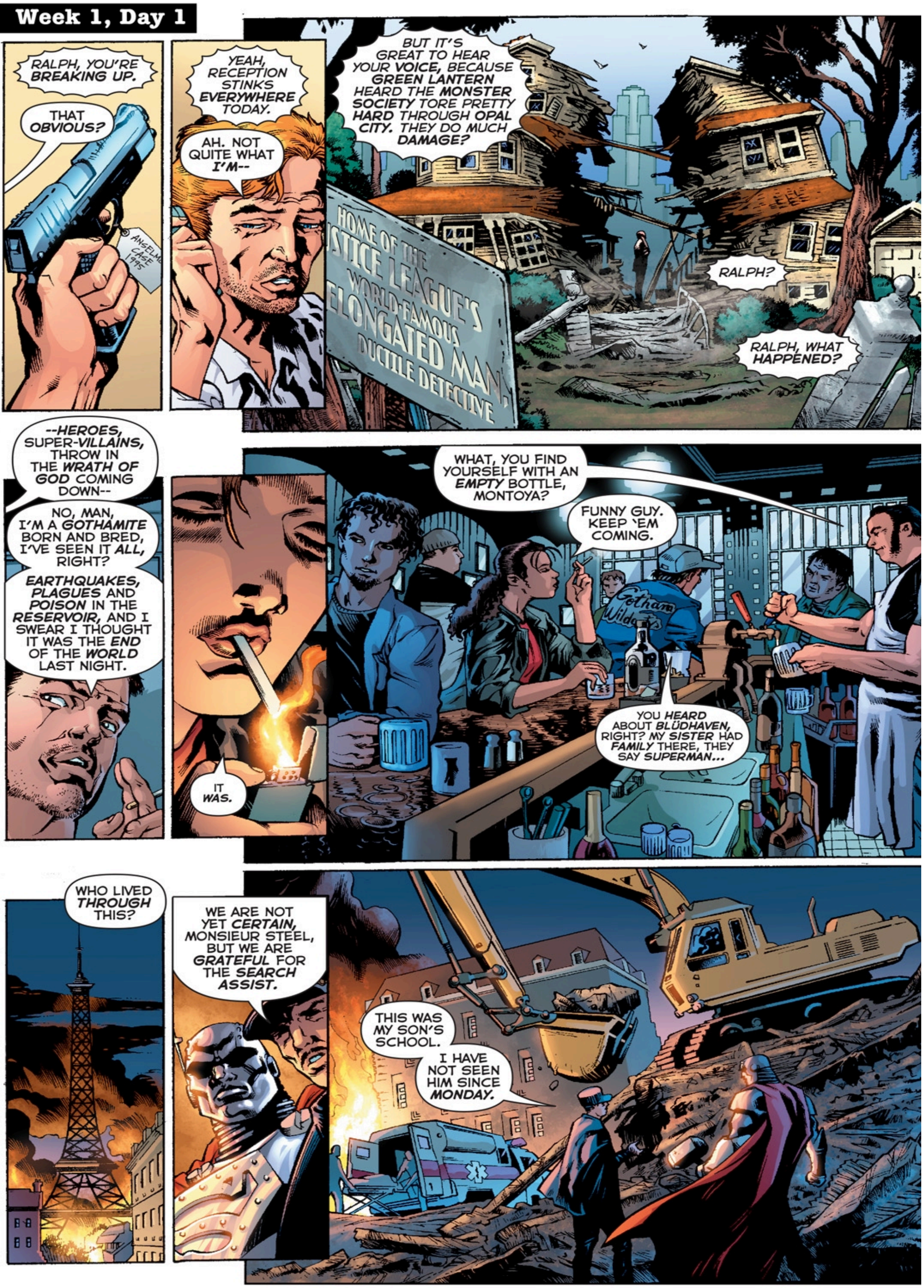
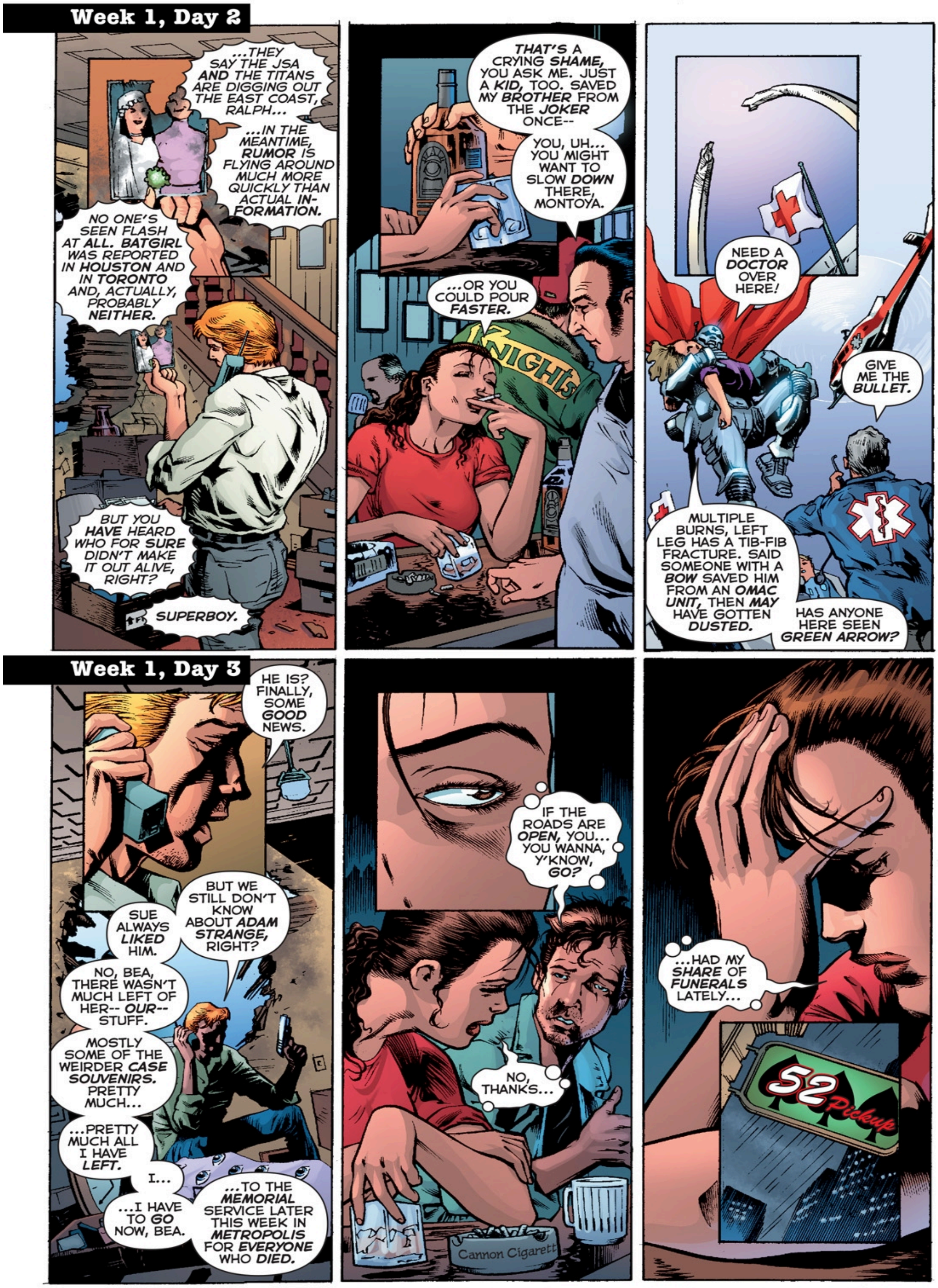


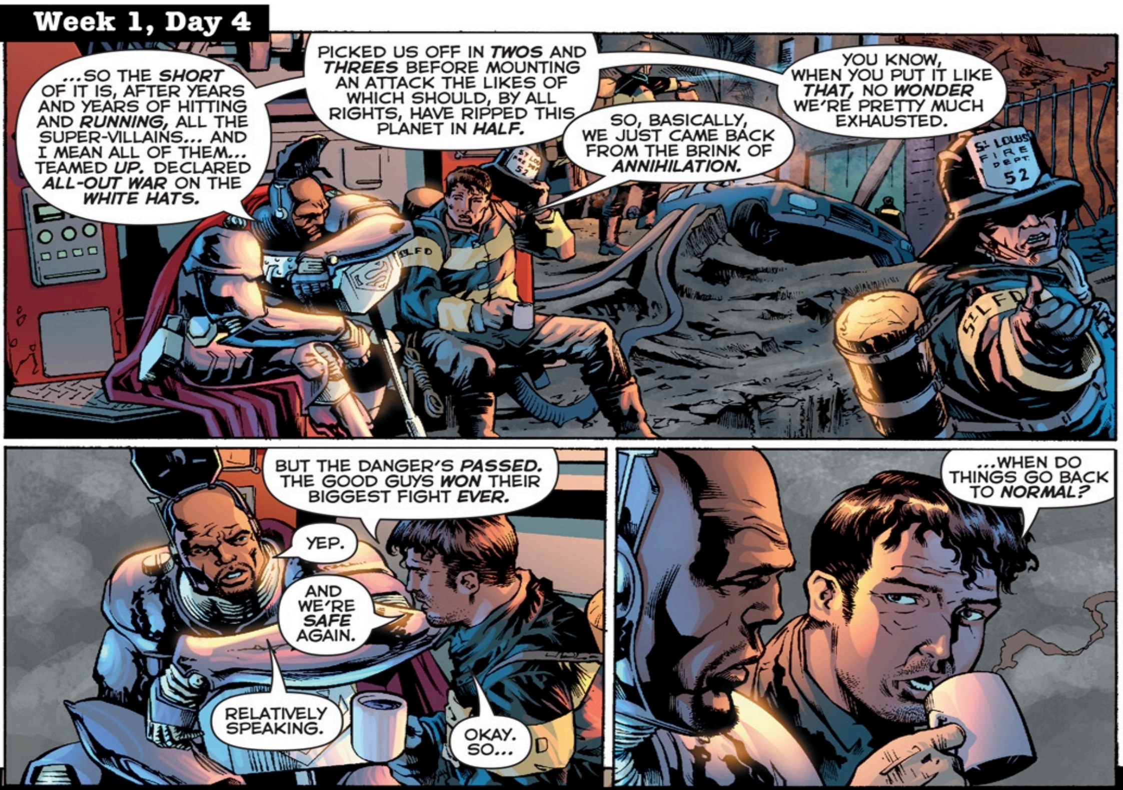
CONVERSION BY
WILDSTORM

Week 1, Day 1

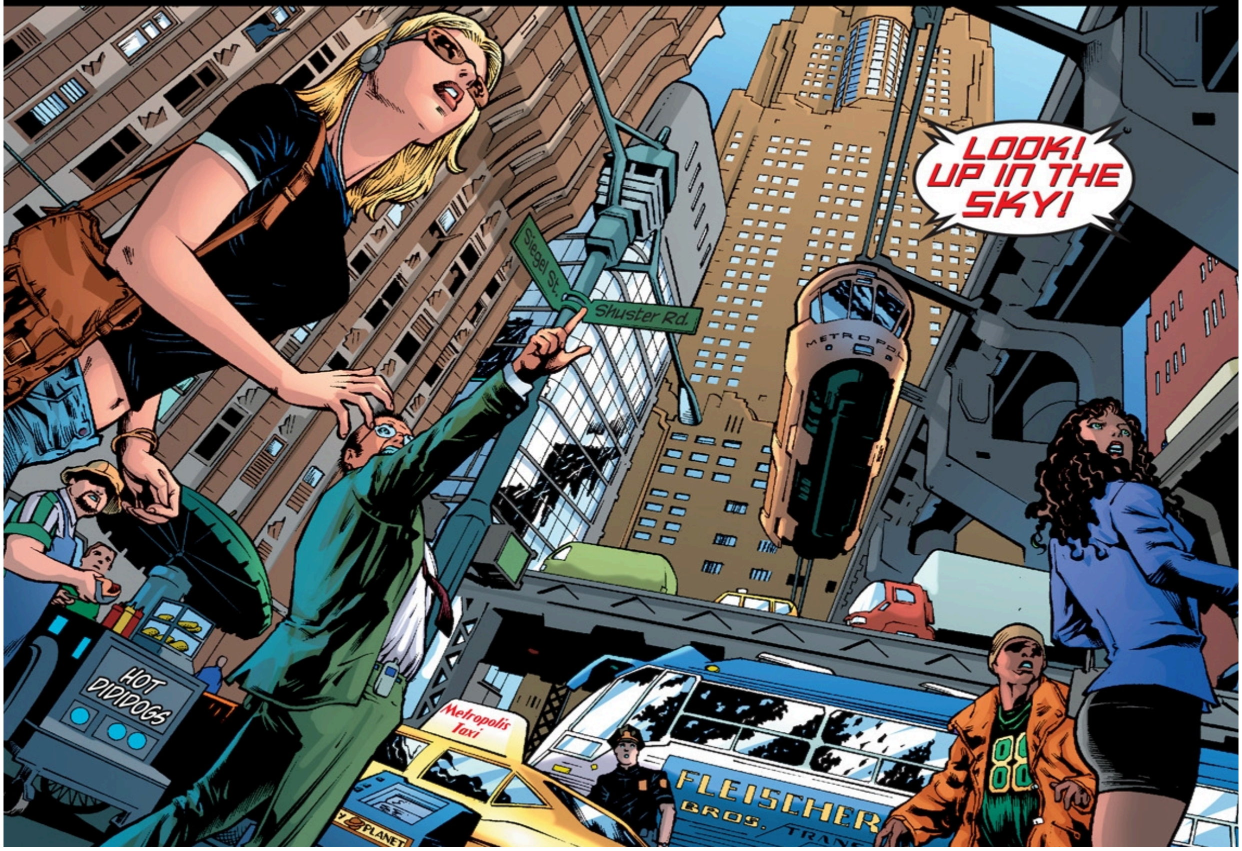

RALPH, YOU'RE BREAKING UP.
THAT OBVIOUS?
ANSELMO CASE 1995
YEAH, RECEPTION STINKS EVERYWHERE TODAY.
AH. NOT QUITE WHAT I'M--
BUT IT'S GREAT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, BECAUSE GREEN LANTERN HEARD THE MONSTER SOCIETY TORE PRETTY HARD THROUGH OPAL CITY. THEY DO MUCH DAMAGE?
HOME OF THE USTICE LEAGUE'S WORLD-FAMOUS ELONGATED MAN, DUCTILE DETECTIVE
RALPH?
RALPH, WHAT HAPPENED?
--HEROES, SUPER-VILLAINS, THROW IN THE WRATH OF GOD COMING DOWN--
NO, MAN, I'M A GOTHAMITE BORN AND BRED, I'VE SEEN IT ALL, RIGHT?
EARTHQUAKES, PLAGUES AND POISON IN THE RESERVOIR, AND I SWEAR I THOUGHT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD LAST NIGHT.
IT WAS.
WHAT, YOU FIND YOURSELF WITH AN EMPTY BOTTLE, MONTOYA?
FUNNY GUY. KEEP 'EM COMING.
Gotham Wildcats
YOU HEARD ABOUT BLÜDHAVEN, RIGHT? MY SISTER HAD FAMILY THERE, THEY SAY SUPERMAN...
WHO LIVED THROUGH THIS?
WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN, MONSIEUR STEEL, BUT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SEARCH ASSIST.
THIS WAS MY SON'S SCHOOL.
I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM SINCE MONDAY.

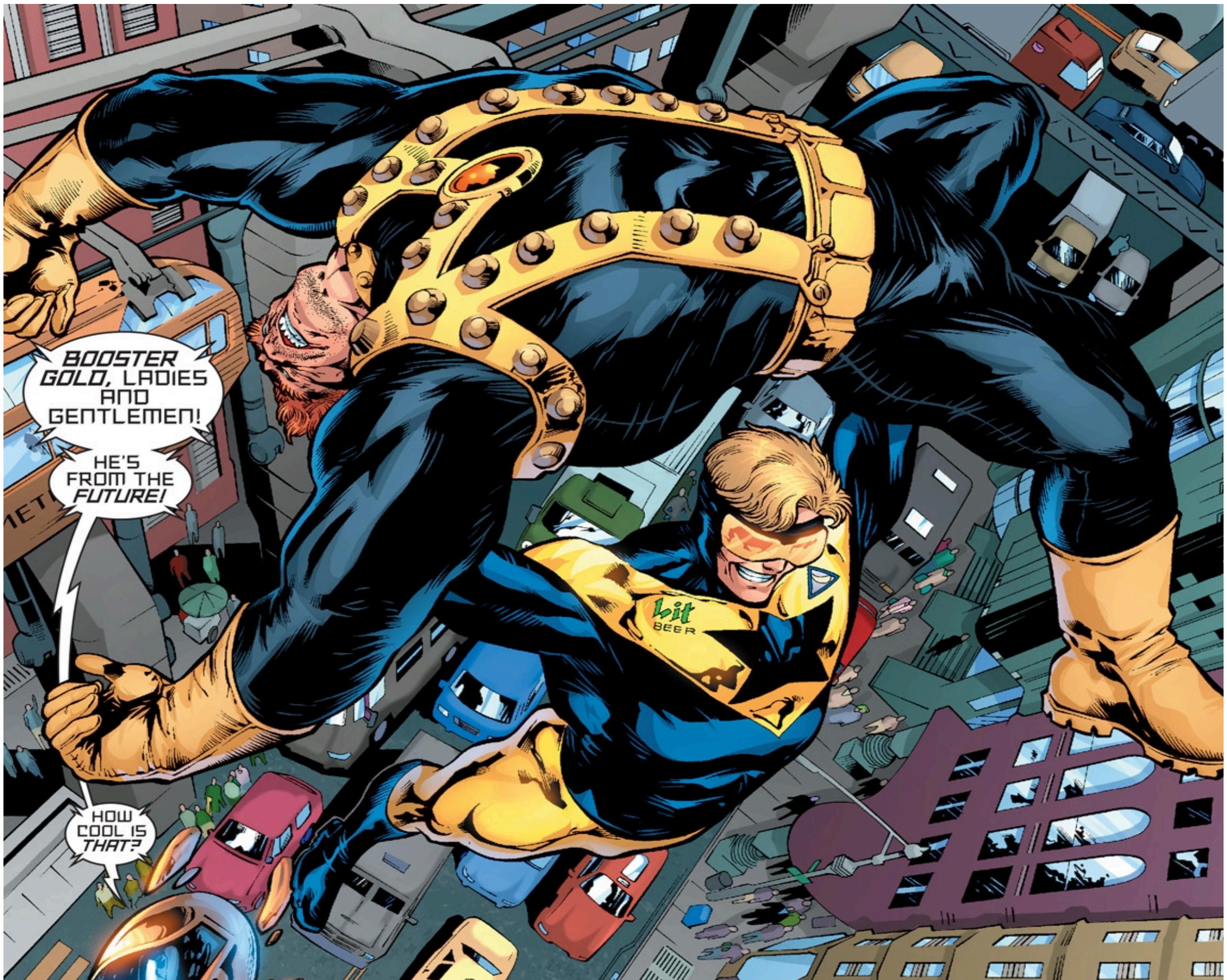

Week 1, Day 2
...THEY SAY THE JSA AND THE TITANS ARE DIGGING OUT THE EAST COAST, RALPH...
...IN THE MEANTIME, RUMOR IS FLYING AROUND MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN ACTUAL INFORMATION.
NO ONE'S SEEN FLASH AT ALL. BATGIRL WAS REPORTED IN HOUSTON AND IN TORONTO AND, ACTUALLY, PROBABLY NEITHER.
BUT YOU HAVE HEARD WHO FOR SURE DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT ALIVE, RIGHT?
SUPERBOY.
THAT'S A CRYING SHAME, YOU ASK ME. JUST A KID, TOO. SAVED MY BROTHER FROM THE JOKER ONCE--
YOU, UH... YOU MIGHT WANT TO SLOW DOWN THERE, MONTOYA.
...OR YOU COULD POUR FASTER.
KNIGHTS
NEED A DOCTOR OVER HERE!
GIVE ME THE BULLET.
MULTIPLE BURNS, LEFT LEG HAS A TIB-FIB FRACTURE. SAID SOMEONE WITH A BOW SAVED HIM FROM AN OMAC UNIT, THEN MAY HAVE GOTTEN DUSTED.
HAS ANYONE HERE SEEN GREEN ARROW?
Week 1, Day 3
HE IS? FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS.
BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT ADAM STRANGE, RIGHT?
SUE ALWAYS LIKED HIM.
NO, BEA, THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT OF HER-- OUR-- STUFF.
MOSTLY SOME OF THE WEIRDER CASE SOUVENIRS. PRETTY MUCH...
...PRETTY MUCH ALL I HAVE LEFT.
I...
...I HAVE TO GO NOW, BEA.
...TO THE MEMORIAL SERVICE LATER THIS WEEK IN METROPOLIS FOR EVERYONE WHO DIED.
IF THE ROADS ARE OPEN, YOU... YOU WANNA, Y'KNOW, GO?
NO, THANKS...
Cannon Cigarett
...HAD MY SHARE OF FUNERALS LATELY...
52 Pickup

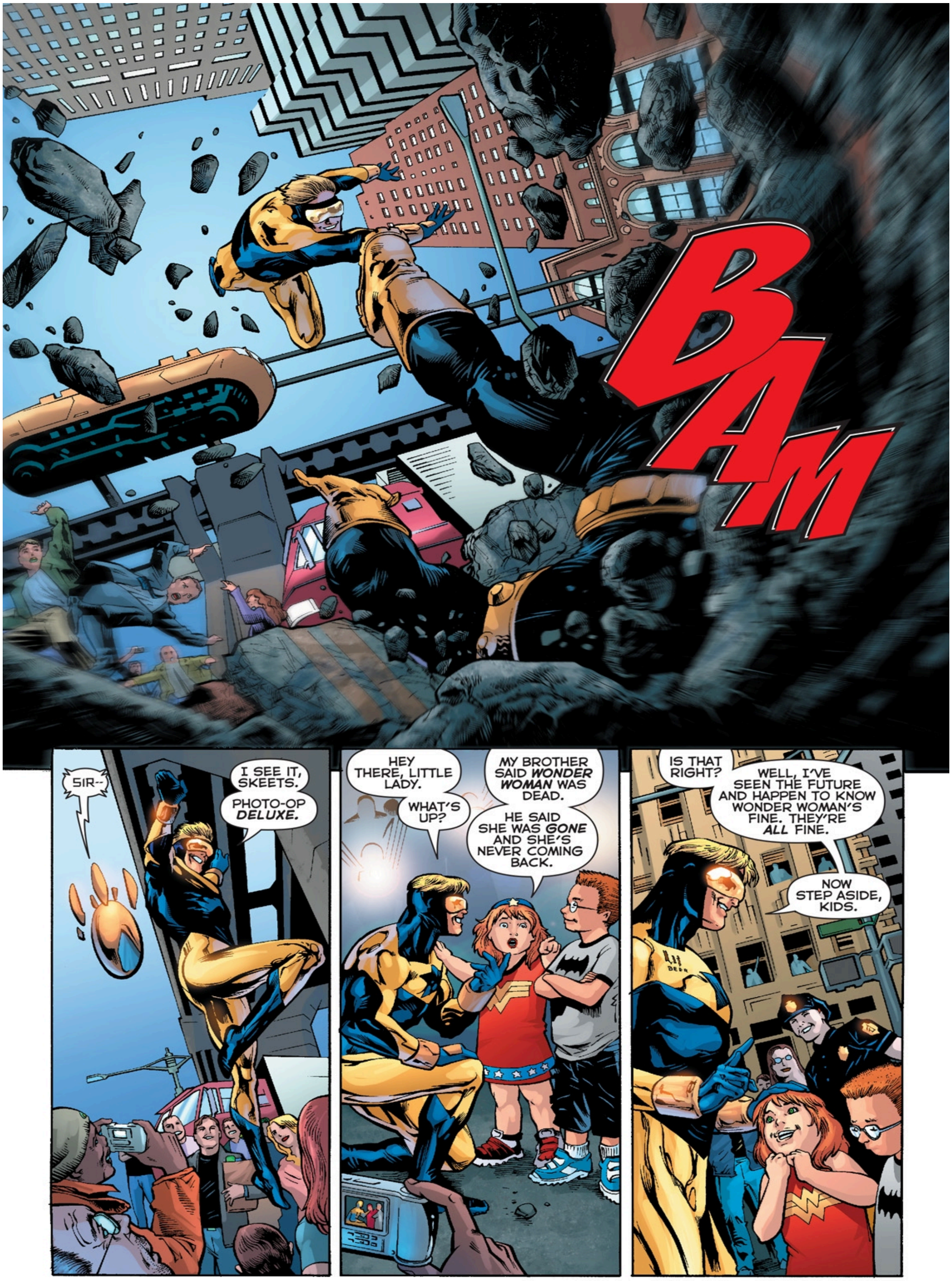
Week 1, Day 4

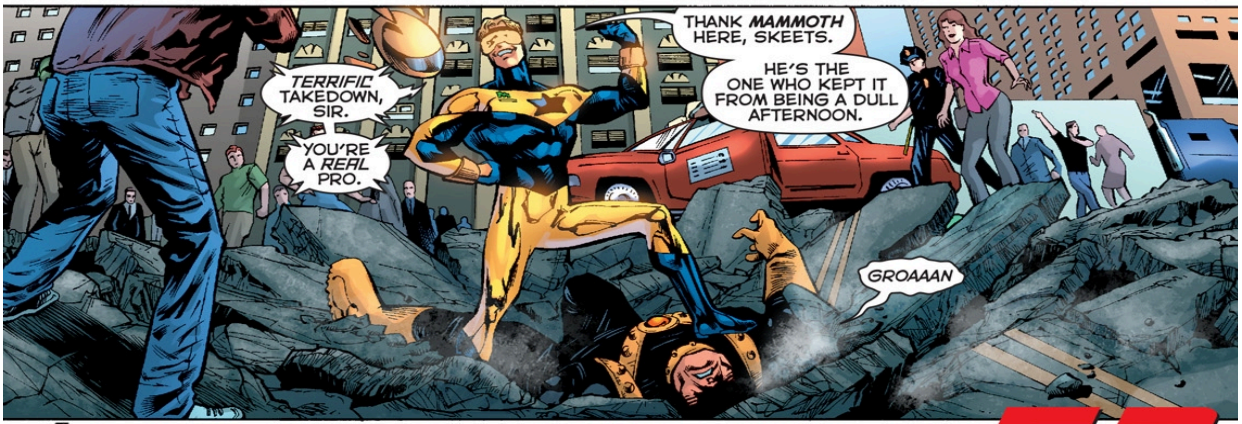

...SO THE *SHORT* OF IT IS, AFTER YEARS AND YEARS OF HITTING AND *RUNNING*, ALL THE SUPER-VILLAINS... AND I MEAN ALL OF THEM... TEAMED *UP*. DECLARED *ALL-OUT WAR* ON THE *WHITE HATS*.
PICKED US OFF IN *TWOS* AND *THREES* BEFORE MOUNTING AN ATTACK THE LIKES OF WHICH SHOULD, BY ALL RIGHTS, HAVE RIPPED THIS PLANET IN *HALF*.
SO, BASICALLY, WE JUST CAME BACK FROM THE BRINK OF *ANNIHILATION*.
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE *THAT*, NO *WONDER* WE'RE PRETTY MUCH EXHAUSTED.
ST. LOUIS FIRE DEPT 52
SLFD
BUT THE DANGER'S *PASSED*. THE GOOD GUYS *WON* THEIR BIGGEST FIGHT *EVER*.
YEP.
AND WE'RE *SAFE* AGAIN.
RELATIVELY SPEAKING.
OKAY. SO...
...WHEN DO THINGS GO BACK TO *NORMAL?*

Week 1, Day 5

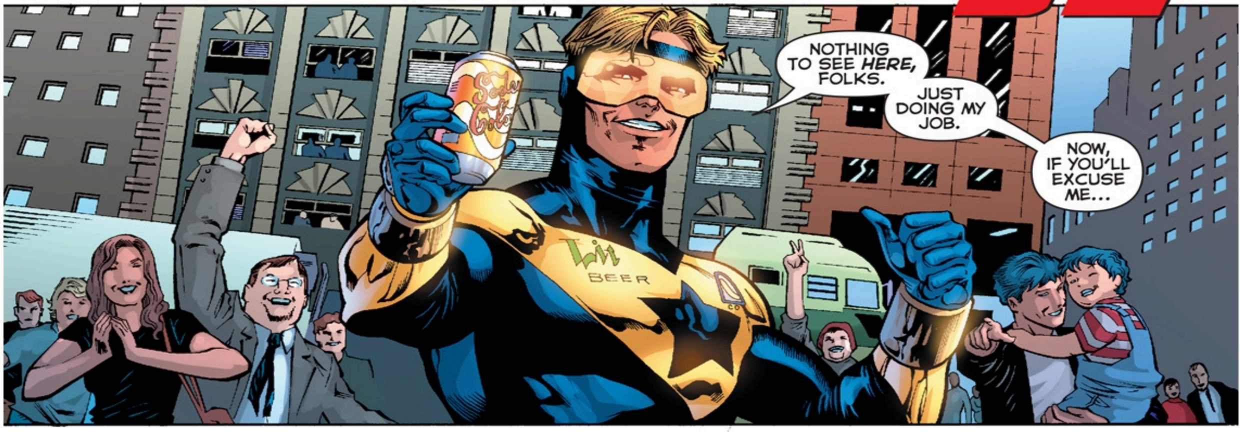

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
Siegel St.
Shuster Rd.
METROPOLIS
HOT DIDIDOGS
Metropolis Taxi
DAILY PLANET
FLEISCHER BROS. TRANS


BOOSTER GOLD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
HE'S FROM THE FUTURE!
HOW COOL IS THAT?
AND EVEN THOUGH BOOSTER'S WAY TOO MODEST TO SAY IT, I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SPEAK UP AND TELL YOU THIS MAN IS THE FRESH NEW FACE OF SUPER-HEROICS.
WHAT THE %@$% IS ALL THIS, YA FLAMIN' GALA? HUH?
PICKING ON ME?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS GONNA NICK THOSE DIAMONDS 'TIL I DID IT! SPUR O' THE MOMENT! HOW'D YA GET UP ON ME SO QUICK?
CALL IT AN INSIDE TIP, MAMMOTH.
BOYS, GIRLS, AND CORPORATE SPONSORS-- IF THE DAY NEEDS SAVING, BOOSTER'S YOUR GUY!
IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY ON.
Lit BEER

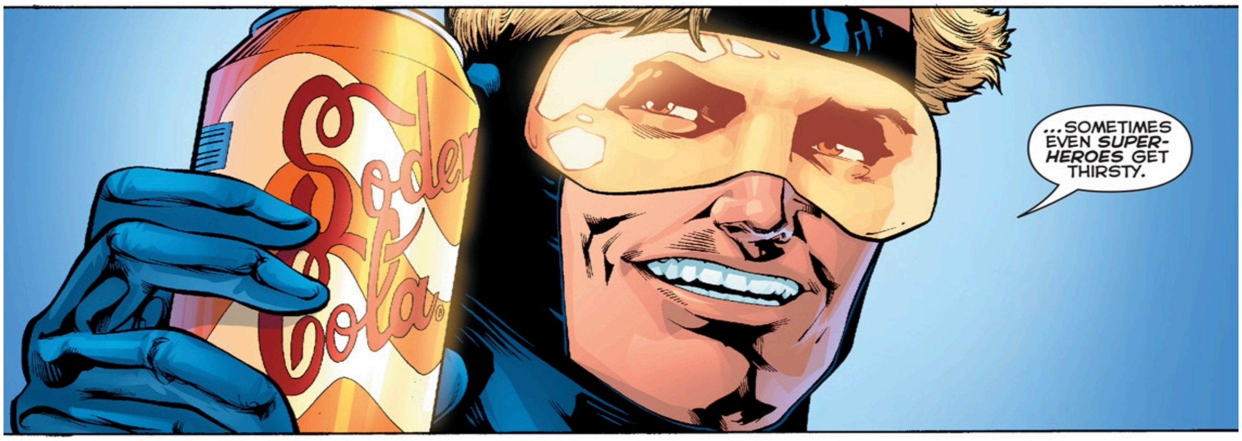

BAM
SIR--
I SEE IT, SKEETS.
PHOTO-OP *DELUXE.*
HEY THERE, LITTLE LADY.
WHAT'S UP?
MY BROTHER SAID *WONDER WOMAN* WAS DEAD.
HE SAID SHE WAS *GONE* AND SHE'S NEVER COMING BACK.
IS THAT RIGHT?
WELL, I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND HAPPEN TO KNOW WONDER WOMAN'S FINE. THEY'RE *ALL* FINE.
NOW STEP ASIDE, KIDS.


TERRIFIC TAKEDOWN, SIR.
YOU'RE A REAL PRO.
THANK MAMMOTH HERE, SKEETS.
HE'S THE ONE WHO KEPT IT FROM BEING A DULL AFTERNOON.
GROAAAN

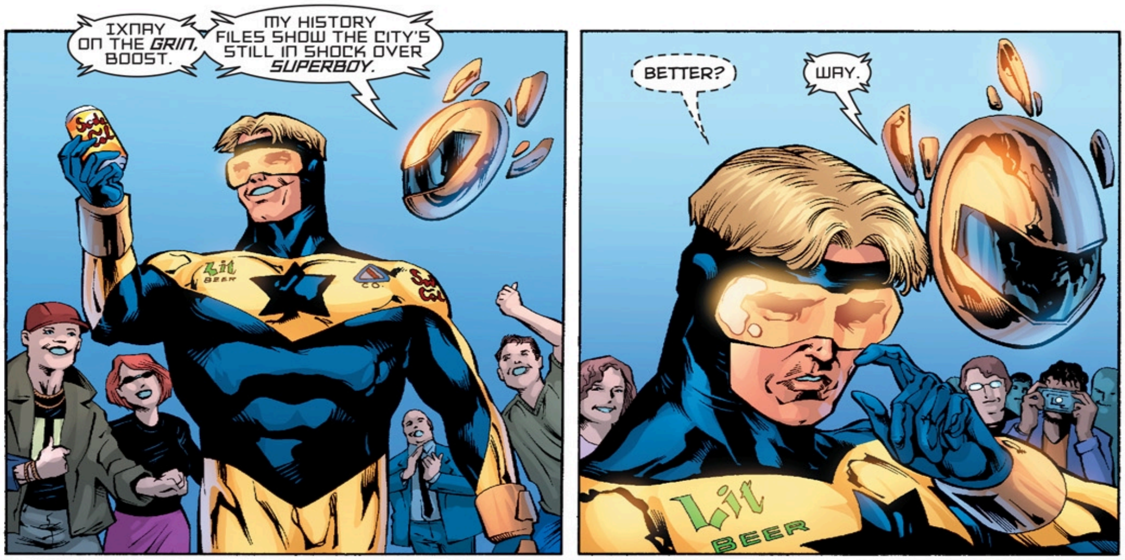
DC COMICS 52


Soder Cola
Lil BEER
NOTHING TO SEE HERE, FOLKS.
JUST DOING MY JOB.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

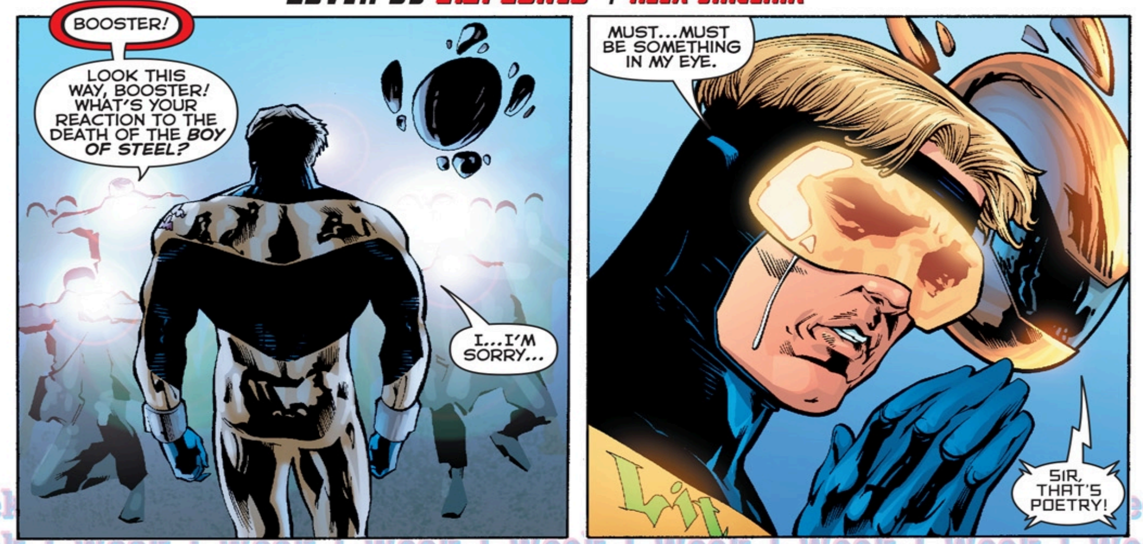
WRITTEN BY GEOFF JOHNS, GRANT MORRISON, GREG RUCKA, MARK WAID


Soder Cola
...SOMETIMES EVEN SUPER-HEROES GET THIRSTY.

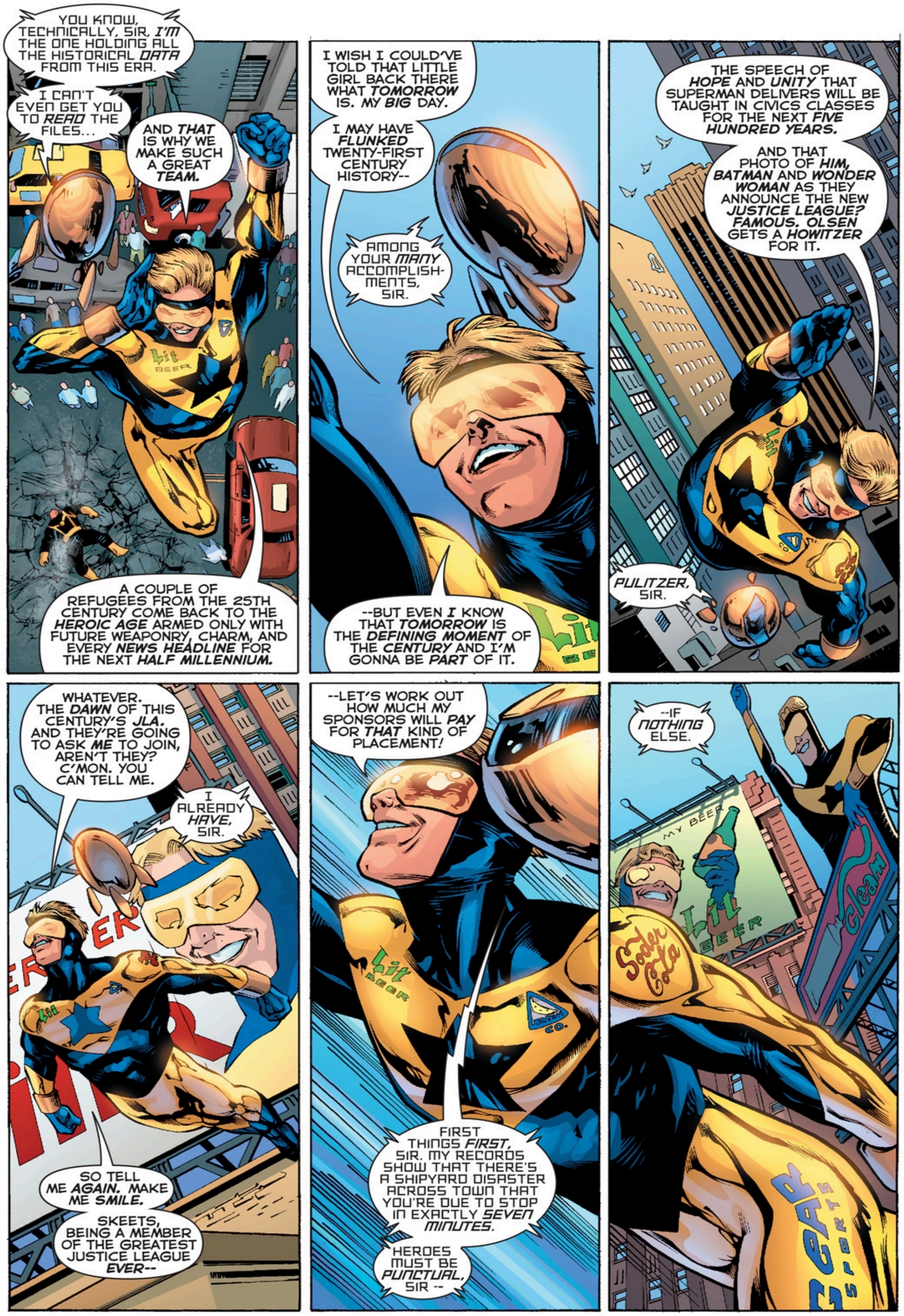
ART BREAKDOWNS BY KEITH GIFFEN • PENCILS BY JOE BENNETT • INKS BY RUY JOSE
COLORS BY ALEX SINCLAIR • LETTERING BY NICK J. NAPOLITANO

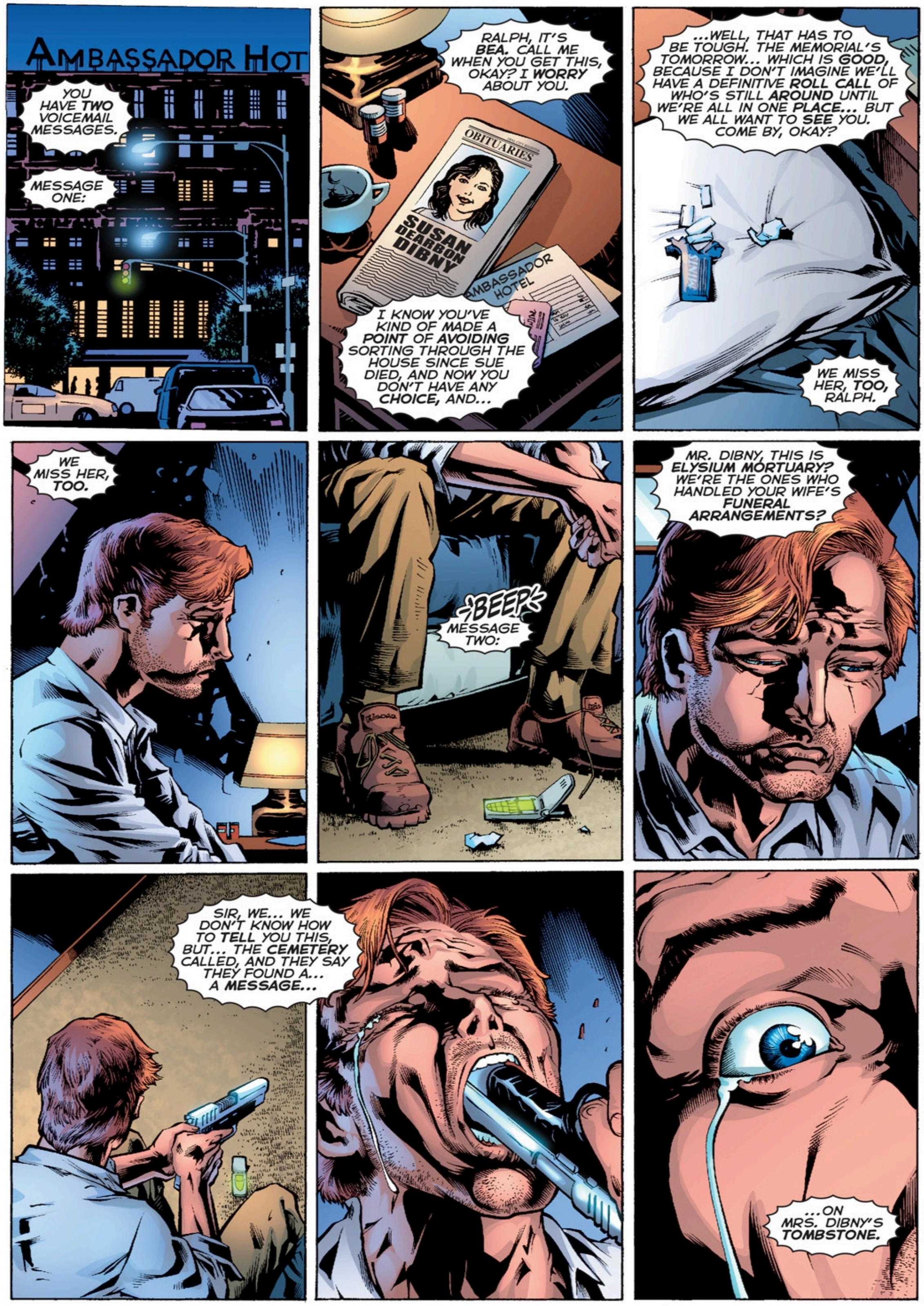

IXNAY ON THE *GRIN*, BOOST.
MY HISTORY FILES SHOW THE CITY'S STILL IN SHOCK OVER *SUPERBOY*.
Lit BEER
BETTER?
WAY.
Lit BEER

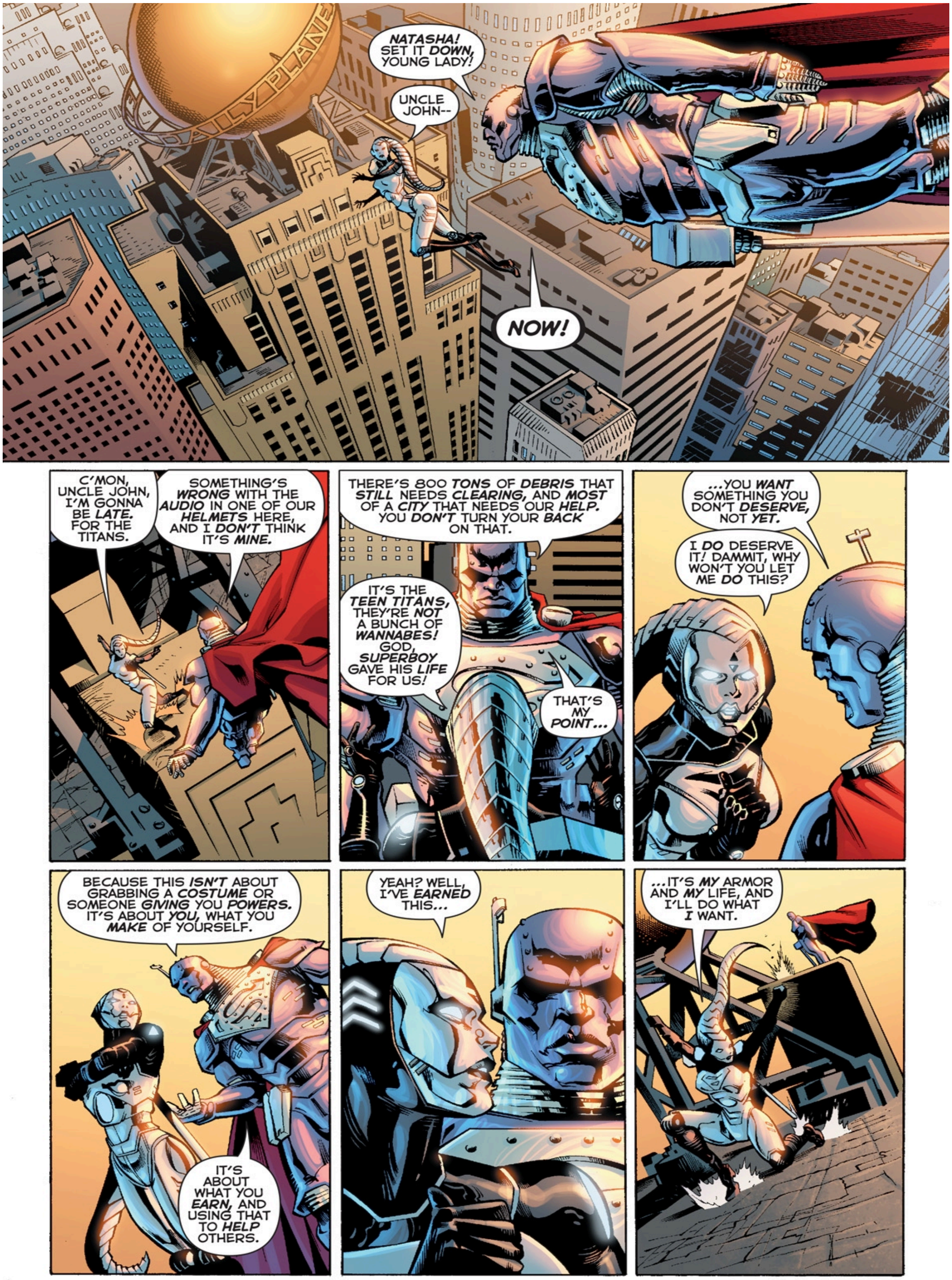
ASSISTANT EDITORS JANN JONES & HARVEY RICHARDS EDITED BY STEPHEN WACKER
COVER BY J.G. JONES & ALEX SINCLAIR

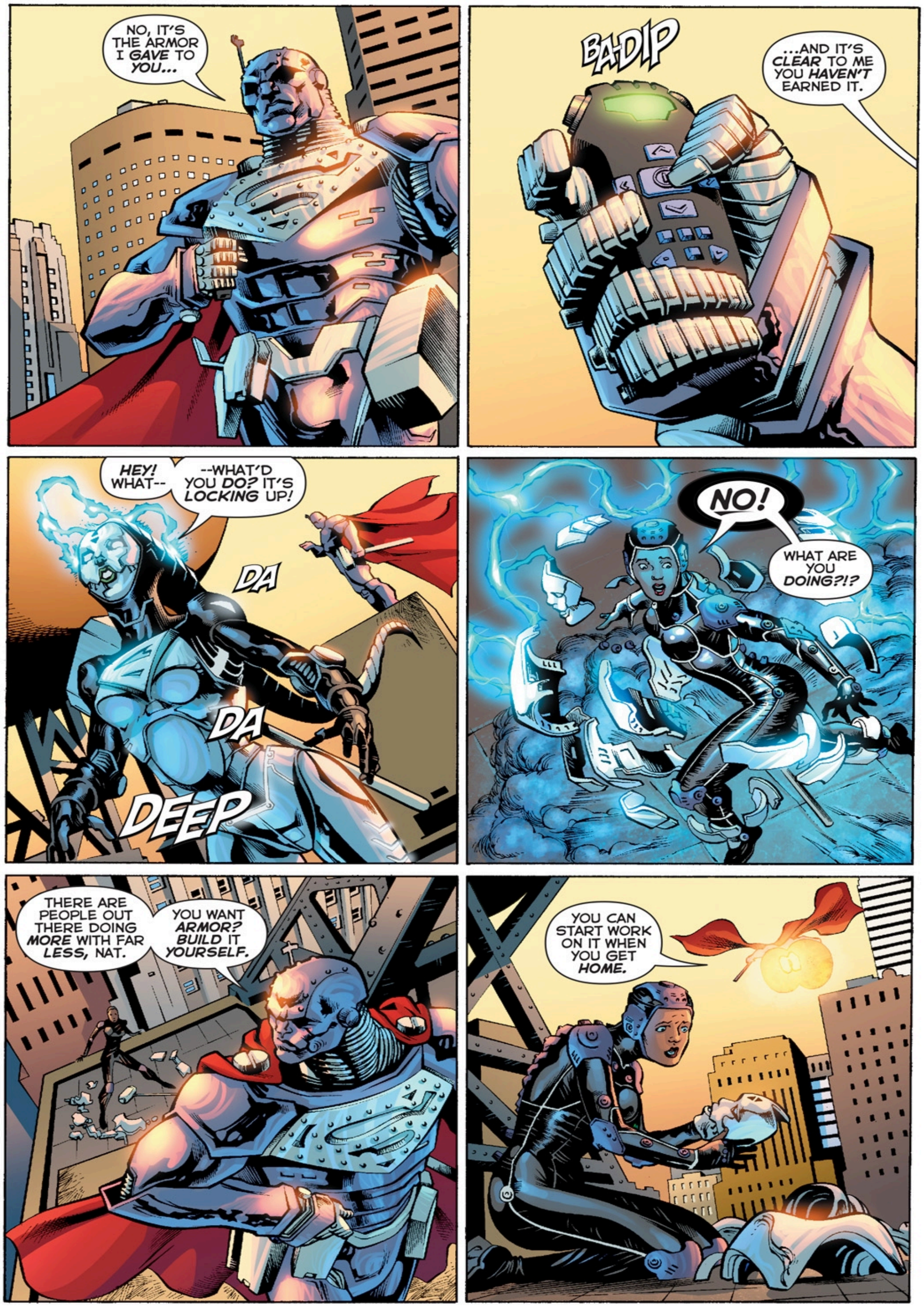

BOOSTER!
LOOK THIS WAY, BOOSTER! WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THE DEATH OF THE *BOY OF STEEL?*
I...I'M SORRY...
MUST...MUST BE SOMETHING IN MY EYE.
SIR, THAT'S POETRY!

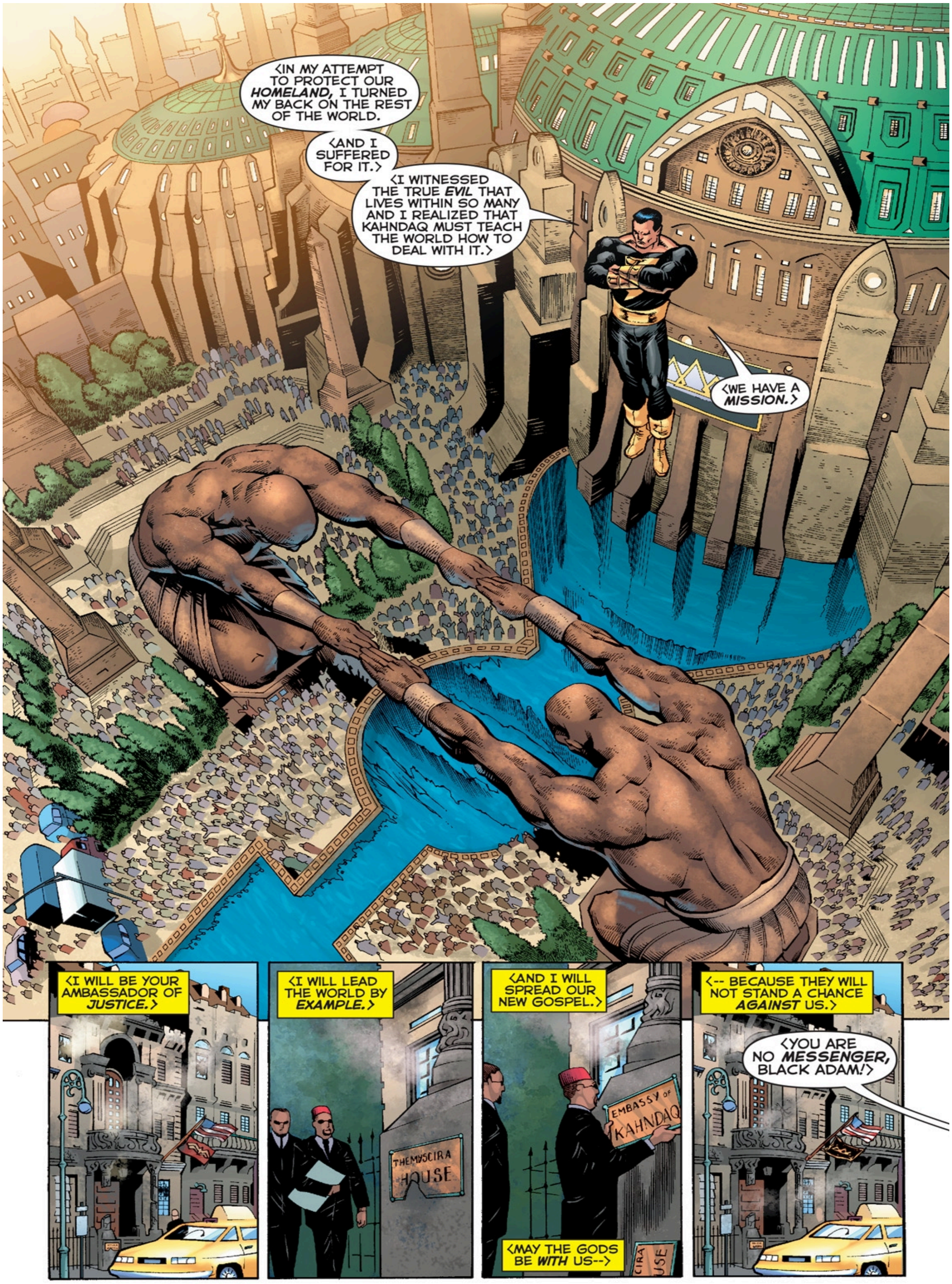
GOLDEN LADS & LASSES MUST...

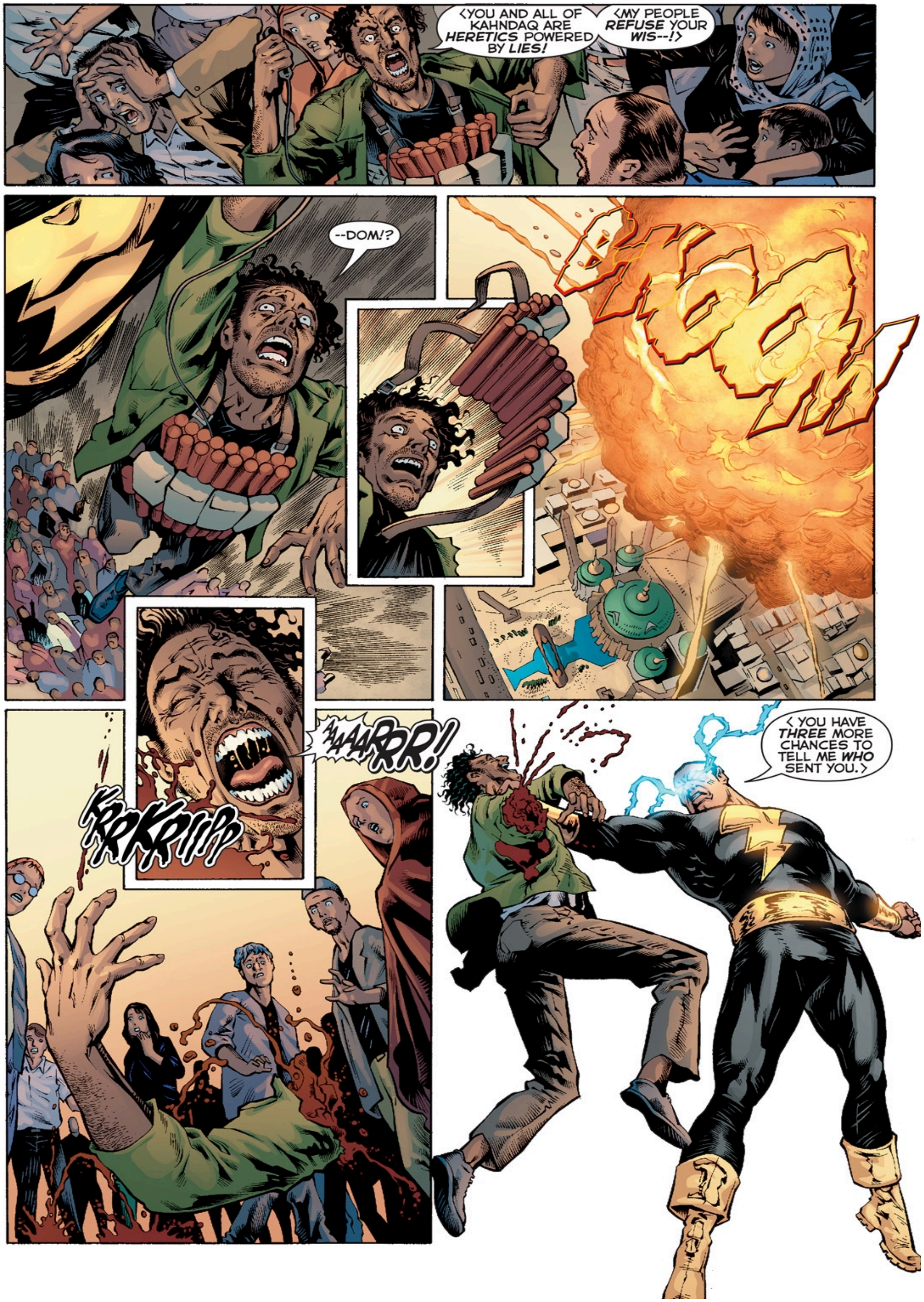

YOU KNOW, TECHNICALLY, SIR, *I'M* THE ONE HOLDING ALL THE HISTORICAL *DATA* FROM THIS ERA.
I CAN'T EVEN GET YOU TO *READ* THE FILES...
AND *THAT* IS WHY WE MAKE SUCH A GREAT *TEAM.*
A COUPLE OF REFUGEES FROM THE 25TH CENTURY COME BACK TO THE *HEROIC AGE* ARMED ONLY WITH FUTURE WEAPONRY, CHARM, AND EVERY *NEWS HEADLINE* FOR THE NEXT *HALF MILLENNIUM.*
Lit BEER
I WISH I COULD'VE TOLD THAT LITTLE GIRL BACK THERE WHAT *TOMORROW* IS. MY *BIG* DAY.
I MAY HAVE *FLUNKED* TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY HISTORY--
AMONG YOUR *MANY* ACCOMPLISH-MENTS, SIR.
--BUT EVEN *I* KNOW THAT *TOMORROW* IS THE *DEFINING MOMENT* OF THE *CENTURY* AND I'M GONNA BE *PART* OF IT.
THE SPEECH OF *HOPE* AND *UNITY* THAT SUPERMAN DELIVERS WILL BE TAUGHT IN CIVICS CLASSES FOR THE NEXT *FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.*
AND THAT PHOTO OF *HIM, BATMAN* AND *WONDER WOMAN* AS THEY ANNOUNCE THE NEW *JUSTICE LEAGUE? FAMOUS. OLSEN* GETS A *HOWITZER* FOR IT.
PULITZER, SIR.
WHATEVER. THE *DAWN* OF THIS CENTURY'S *JLA.* AND THEY'RE GOING TO ASK *ME* TO JOIN, AREN'T THEY? C'MON. YOU CAN TELL ME.
I *ALREADY HAVE,* SIR.
SO TELL ME *AGAIN. MAKE* ME *SMILE.*
SKEETS, BEING A MEMBER OF THE GREATEST JUSTICE LEAGUE *EVER--*
--LET'S WORK OUT HOW MUCH MY SPONSORS WILL *PAY* FOR *THAT* KIND OF PLACEMENT!
FIRST THINGS *FIRST,* SIR. MY RECORDS SHOW THAT THERE'S A SHIPYARD DISASTER ACROSS TOWN THAT YOU'RE DUE TO STOP IN EXACTLY *SEVEN MINUTES.*
HEROES MUST BE *PUNCTUAL,* SIR --
--IF *NOTHING* ELSE.
MY BEER
Lit BEER
Soder Cola
Clean
GEAR SPORTS

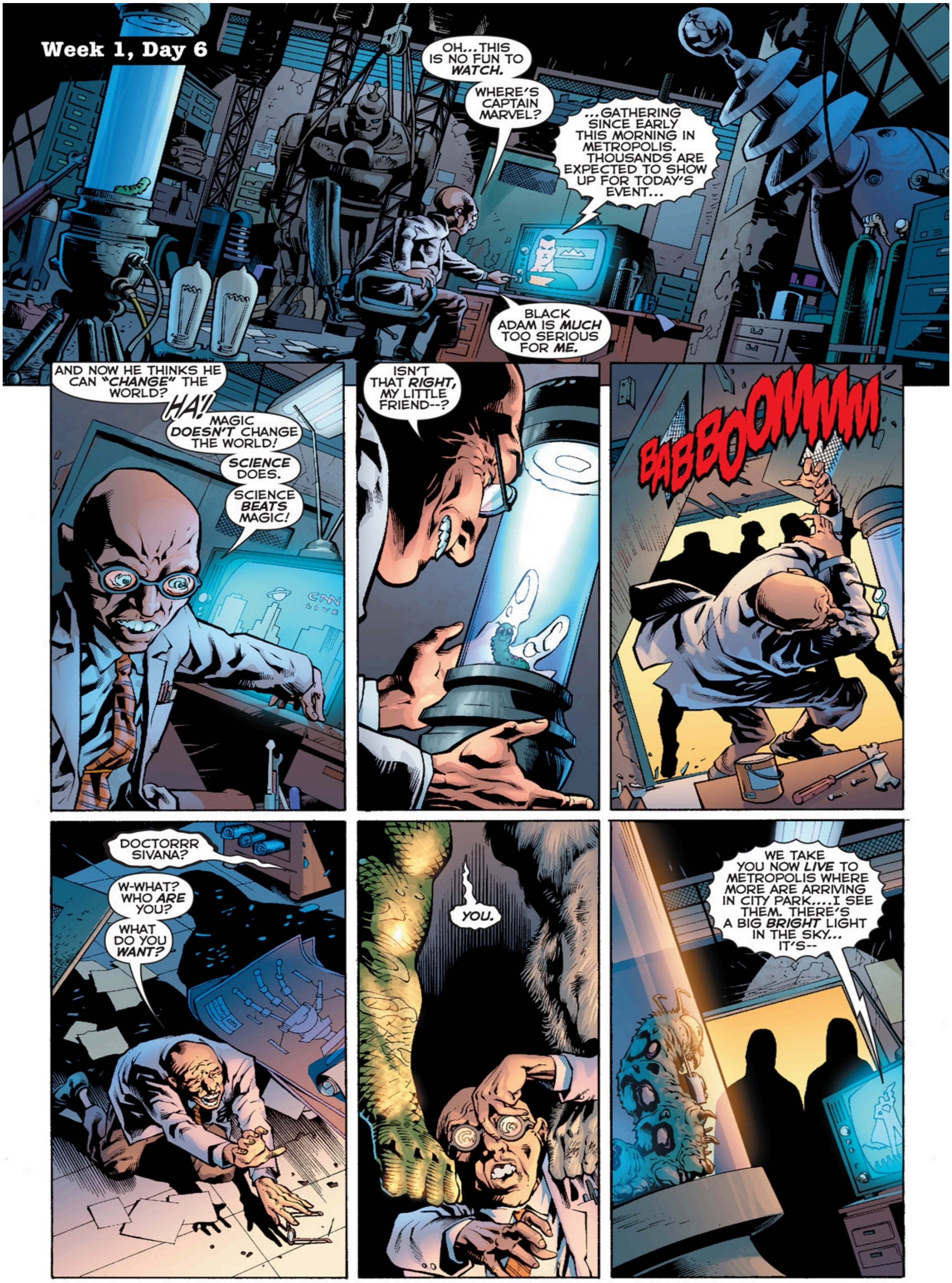

AMBASSADOR HOT
YOU HAVE **TWO** VOICEMAIL MESSAGES.
MESSAGE ONE:
RALPH, IT'S **BEA.** CALL ME WHEN YOU GET THIS, OKAY? I **WORRY** ABOUT YOU.
OBITUARIES
SUSAN DEARBON DIBNY
AMBASSADOR HOTEL
I KNOW YOU'VE KIND OF MADE A **POINT** OF **AVOIDING** SORTING THROUGH THE HOUSE SINCE SUE DIED, AND NOW YOU DON'T HAVE ANY **CHOICE,** AND...
...WELL, THAT HAS TO BE TOUGH. THE MEMORIAL'S TOMORROW... WHICH IS **GOOD,** BECAUSE I DON'T IMAGINE WE'LL HAVE A DEFINITIVE **ROLL CALL** OF WHO'S STILL **AROUND** UNTIL WE'RE ALL IN ONE **PLACE...** BUT WE ALL WANT TO **SEE** YOU. COME BY, OKAY?
WE MISS HER, **TOO,** RALPH.
WE MISS HER, **TOO.**
BEEP
MESSAGE TWO:
MR. DIBNY, THIS IS **ELYSIUM MORTUARY?** WE'RE THE ONES WHO HANDLED YOUR WIFE'S **FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS?**
SIR, WE... WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO **TELL** YOU THIS, BUT... THE **CEMETERY** CALLED, AND THEY SAY THEY FOUND A... A **MESSAGE...**
...ON MRS. DIBNY'S **TOMBSTONE.**

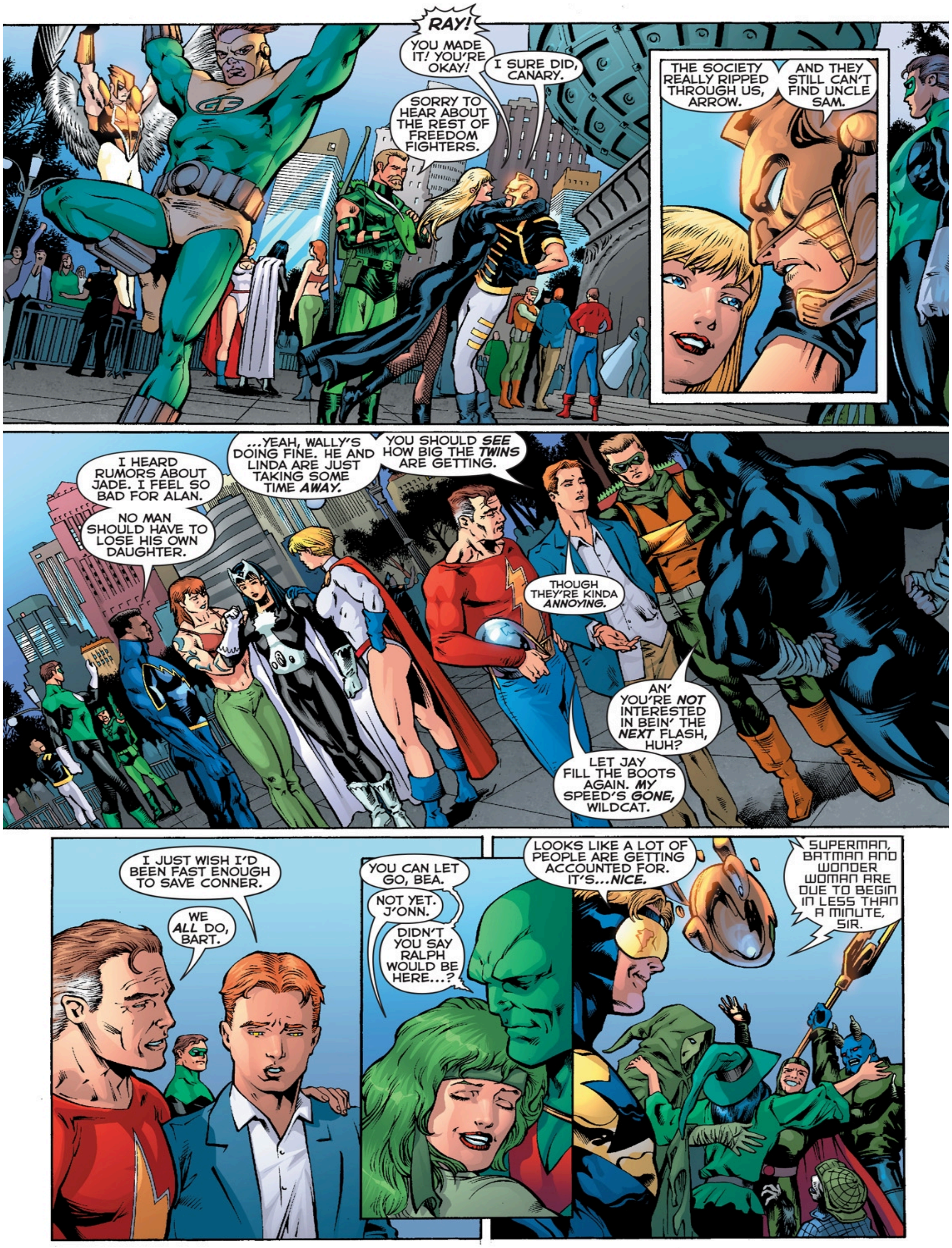

NATASHA! SET IT DOWN, YOUNG LADY!
UNCLE JOHN--
NOW!
C'MON, UNCLE JOHN, I'M GONNA BE LATE. FOR THE TITANS.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE AUDIO IN ONE OF OUR HELMETS HERE, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S MINE.
THERE'S 800 TONS OF DEBRIS THAT STILL NEEDS CLEARING, AND MOST OF A CITY THAT NEEDS OUR HELP. YOU DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON THAT.
IT'S THE TEEN TITANS, THEY'RE NOT A BUNCH OF WANNABES! GOD, SUPERBOY GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US!
THAT'S MY POINT...
...YOU WANT SOMETHING YOU DON'T DESERVE, NOT YET.
I DO DESERVE IT! DAMMIT, WHY WON'T YOU LET ME DO THIS?
BECAUSE THIS ISN'T ABOUT GRABBING A COSTUME OR SOMEONE GIVING YOU POWERS. IT'S ABOUT YOU, WHAT YOU MAKE OF YOURSELF.
IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU EARN, AND USING THAT TO HELP OTHERS.
YEAH? WELL, I'VE EARNED THIS...
...IT'S MY ARMOR AND MY LIFE, AND I'LL DO WHAT I WANT.

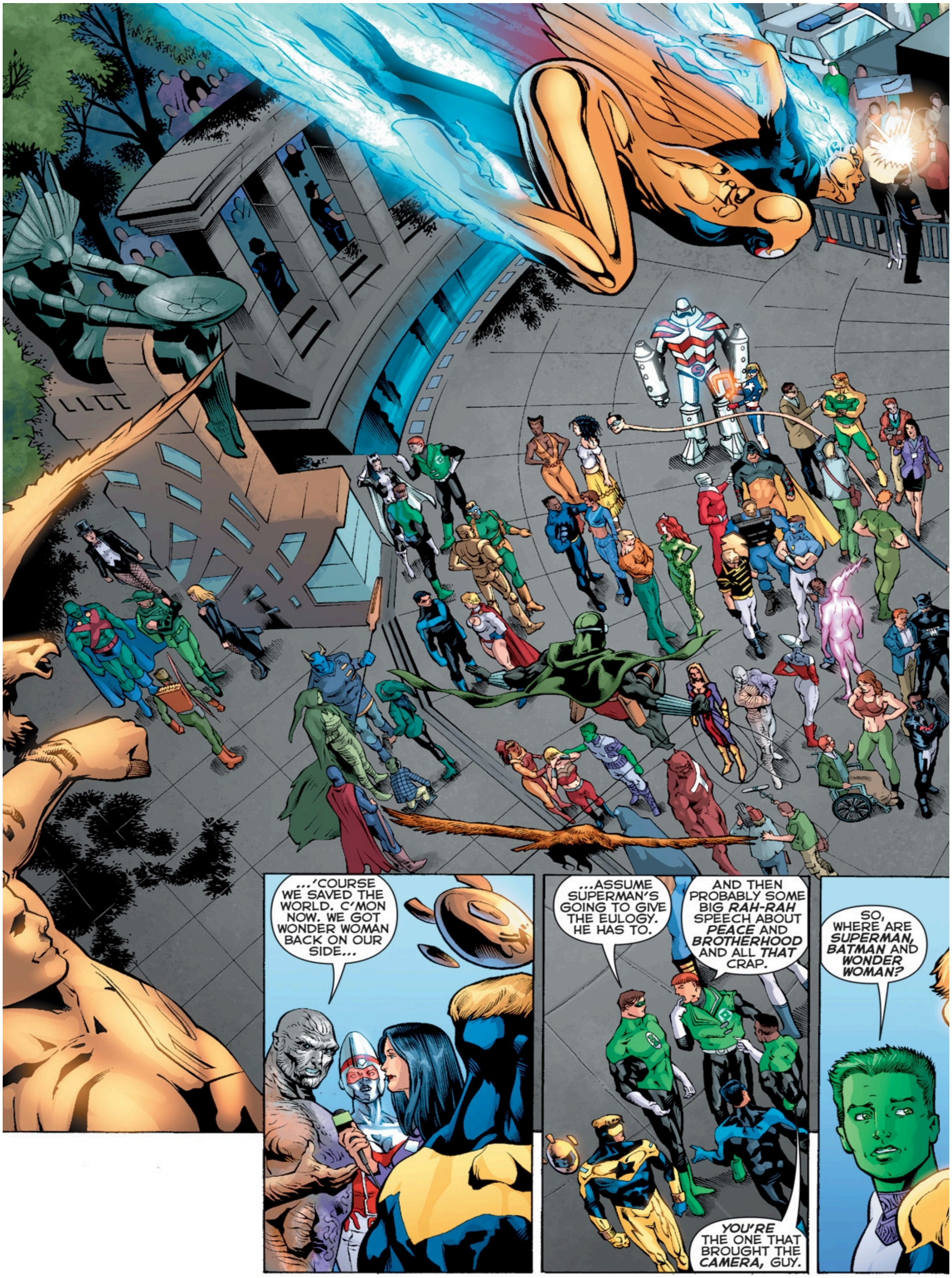

NO, IT'S THE ARMOR I *GAVE* TO *YOU...*
BADIP
...AND IT'S *CLEAR* TO ME YOU *HAVEN'T* EARNED IT.
HEY! WHAT--
--WHAT'D YOU *DO?* IT'S *LOCKING* UP!
DA
DA
DEEP
NO!
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!?*
THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE DOING *MORE* WITH FAR *LESS,* NAT.
YOU WANT *ARMOR? BUILD* IT *YOURSELF.*
YOU CAN START WORK ON IT WHEN YOU GET *HOME.*

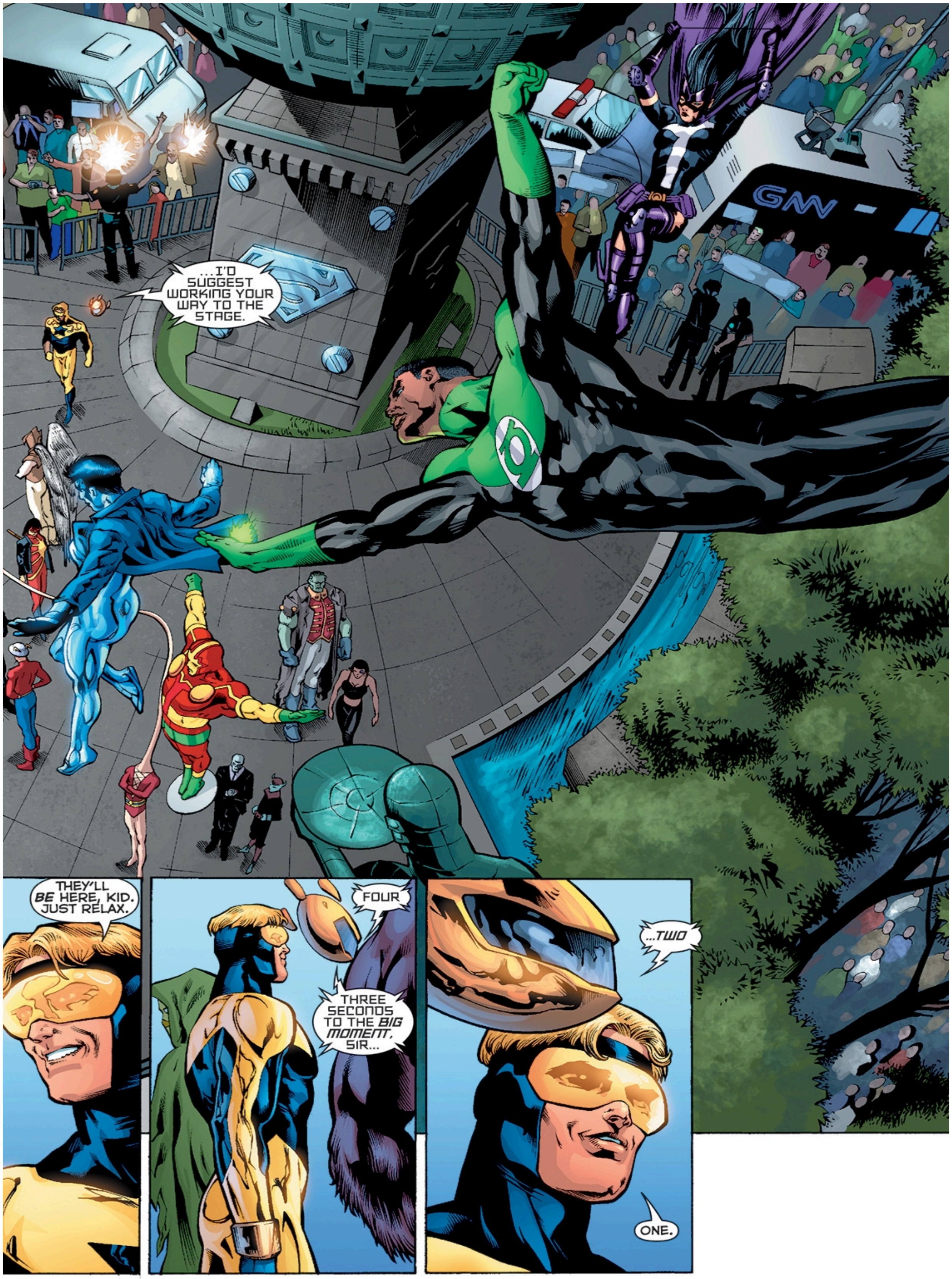

<IN MY ATTEMPT TO PROTECT OUR *HOMELAND,* I TURNED MY BACK ON THE REST OF THE WORLD.>
<AND I SUFFERED FOR IT.>
<I WITNESSED THE TRUE *EVIL* THAT LIVES WITHIN SO MANY AND I REALIZED THAT KAHNDAQ MUST TEACH THE WORLD HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.>
<WE HAVE A *MISSION.*>
<I WILL BE YOUR AMBASSADOR OF *JUSTICE.*>
<I WILL LEAD THE WORLD BY *EXAMPLE.*>
THEMYSCIRA HOUSE
<AND I WILL SPREAD OUR NEW GOSPEL.>
EMBASSY OF KAHNDAQ
<MAY THE GODS BE *WITH* US-->
<-- BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT STAND A CHANCE *AGAINST* US.>
<YOU ARE NO *MESSENGER,* BLACK ADAM!>

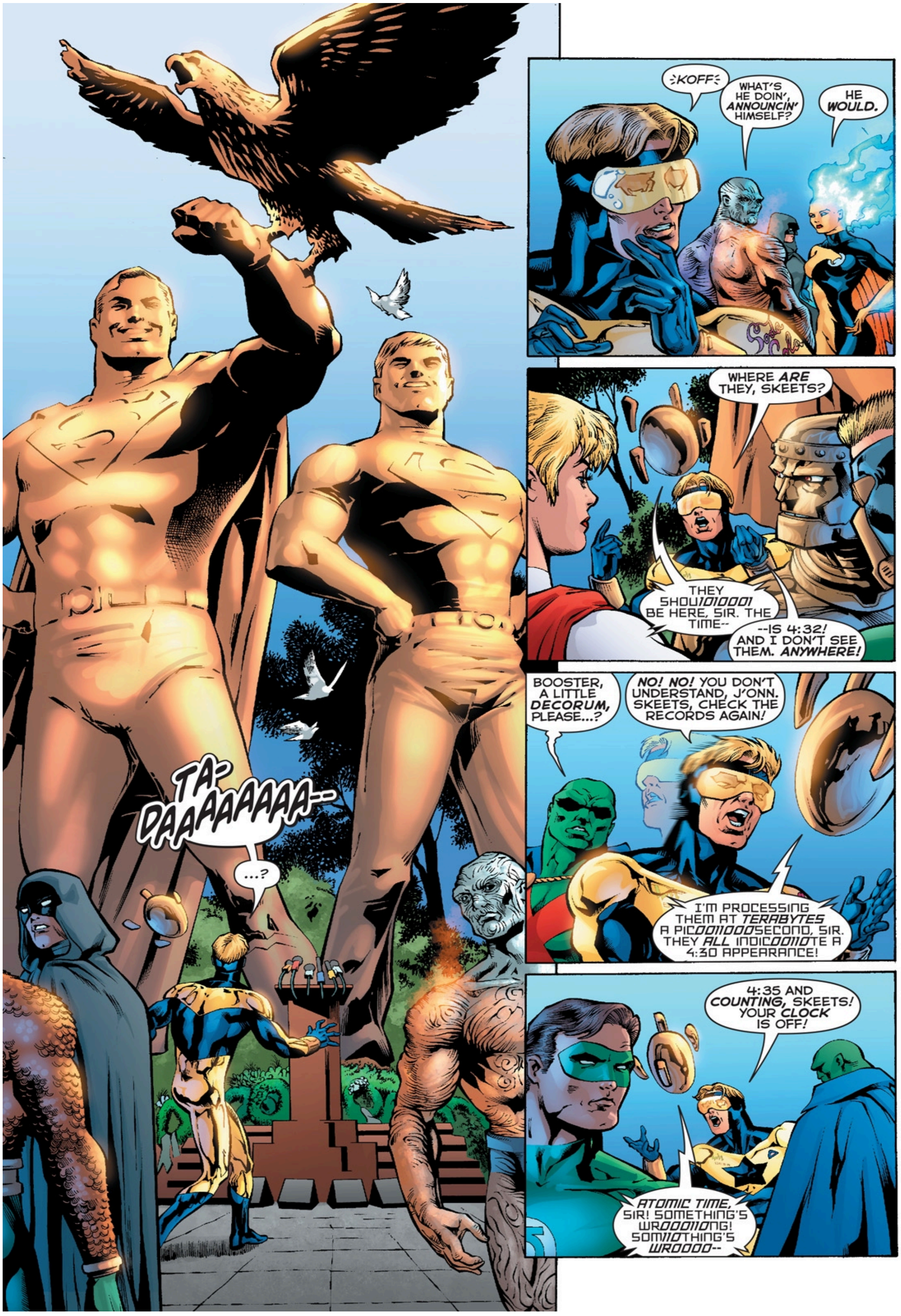

‹YOU AND ALL OF KAHNDAQ ARE ***HERETICS*** POWERED BY ***LIES!***›
‹MY PEOPLE ***REFUSE*** YOUR ***WIS--!***›
--DOM!?
BTOOM
AAAAARRR!
KRKRIIPP
‹ YOU HAVE ***THREE*** MORE CHANCES TO TELL ME ***WHO*** SENT YOU.›

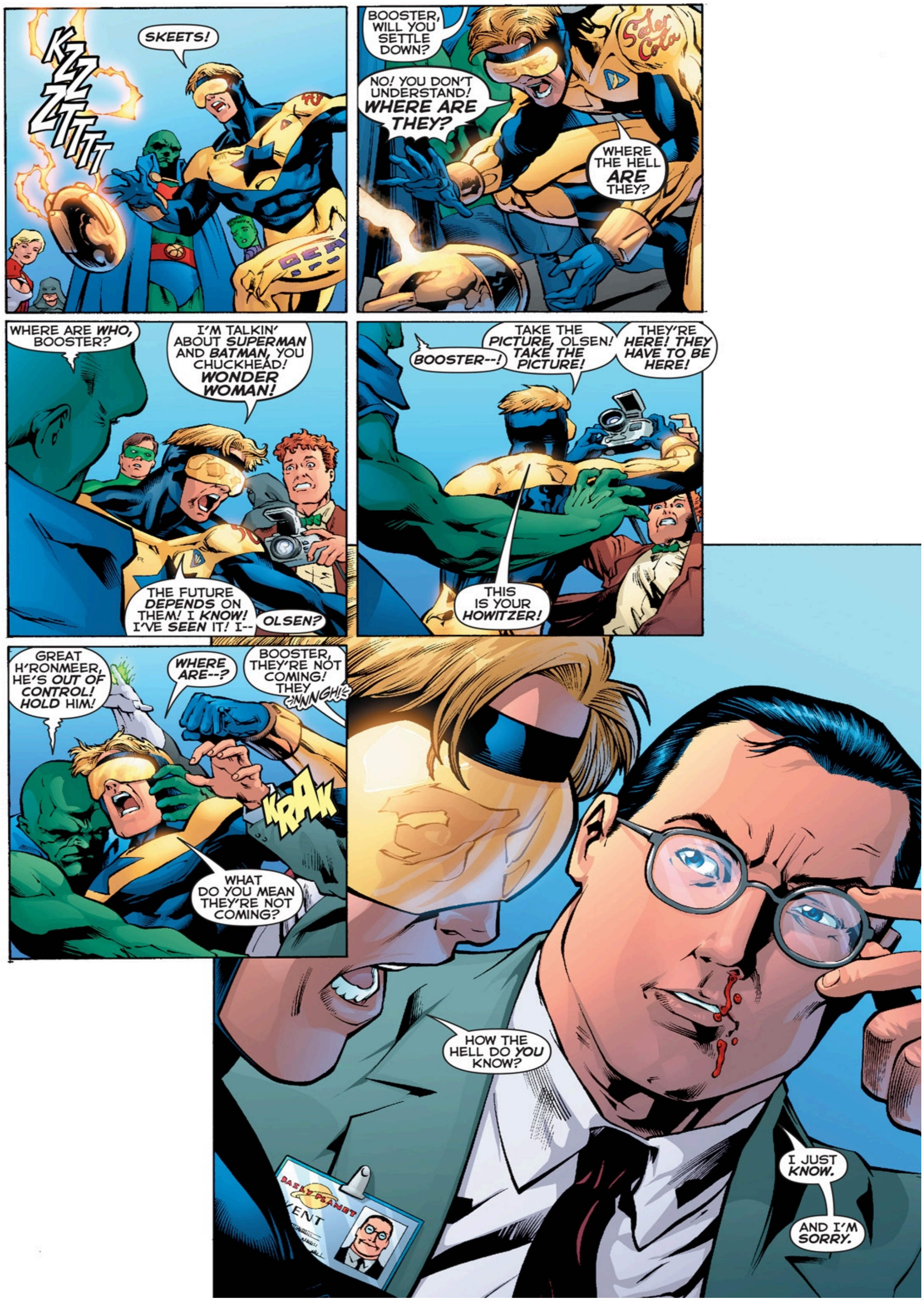

Week 1, Day 6
OH...THIS IS NO FUN TO *WATCH.*
WHERE'S CAPTAIN MARVEL?
...GATHERING SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING IN METROPOLIS. THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED TO SHOW UP FOR TODAY'S EVENT...
BLACK ADAM IS *MUCH* TOO SERIOUS FOR *ME.*
AND NOW HE THINKS HE CAN *"CHANGE"* THE WORLD?
HA!
MAGIC *DOESN'T* CHANGE THE WORLD!
SCIENCE DOES.
SCIENCE *BEATS* MAGIC!
CNN LIVE
ISN'T THAT *RIGHT,* MY LITTLE FRIEND--?
BABBOOMMM
DOCTORRR SIVANA?
W-WHAT? WHO *ARE* YOU?
WHAT DO YOU *WANT?*
YOU.
WE TAKE YOU NOW *LIVE* TO METROPOLIS WHERE MORE ARE ARRIVING IN CITY PARK....I SEE THEM. THERE'S A BIG *BRIGHT* LIGHT IN THE SKY... IT'S--

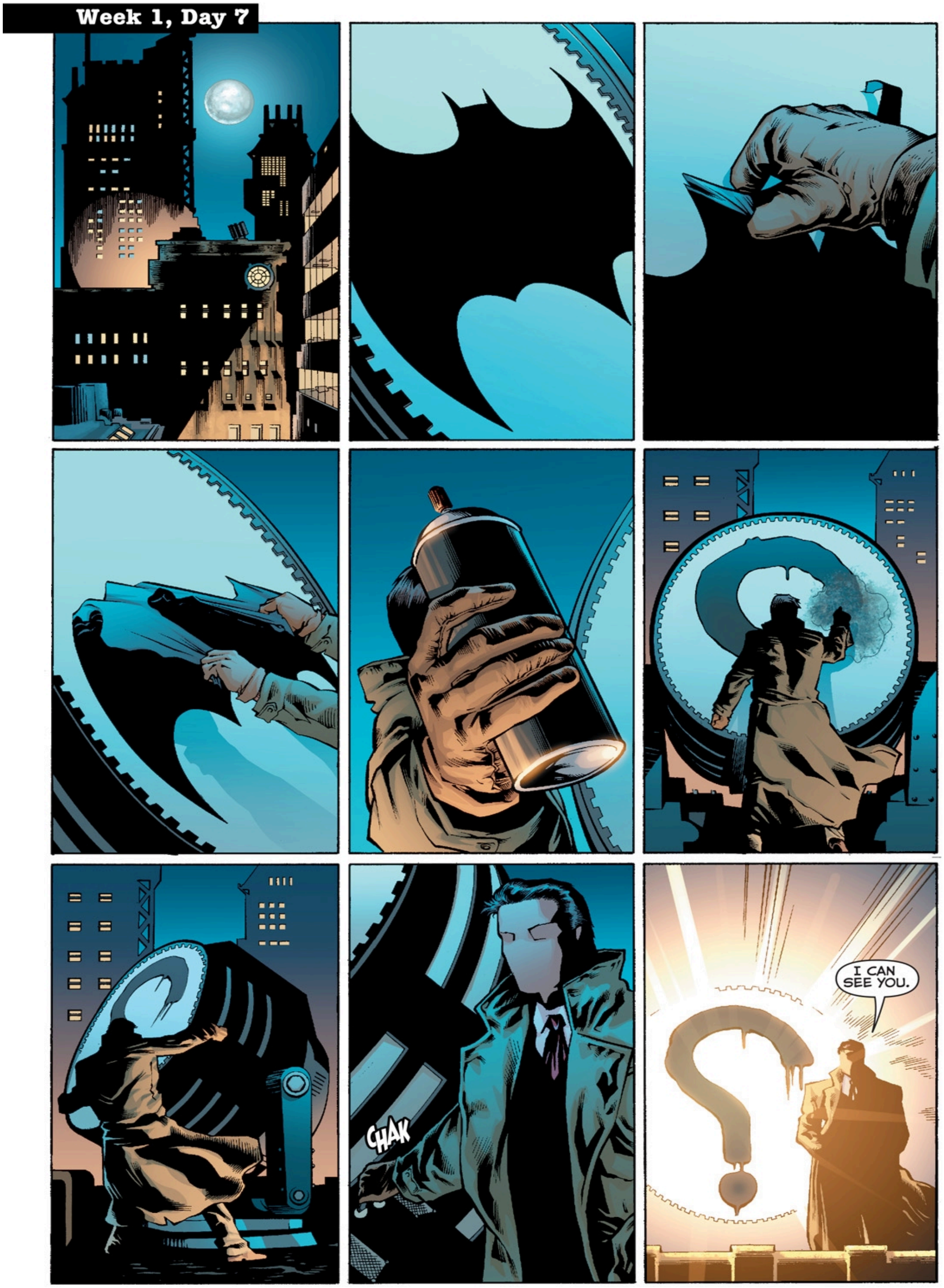

RAY!
YOU MADE IT! YOU'RE OKAY!
I SURE DID, CANARY.
SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE REST OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
THE SOCIETY REALLY RIPPED THROUGH US, ARROW.
AND THEY STILL CAN'T FIND UNCLE SAM.
I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT JADE. I FEEL SO BAD FOR ALAN.
NO MAN SHOULD HAVE TO LOSE HIS OWN DAUGHTER.
...YEAH, WALLY'S DOING FINE. HE AND LINDA ARE JUST TAKING SOME TIME *AWAY*.
YOU SHOULD *SEE* HOW BIG THE *TWINS* ARE GETTING.
THOUGH THEY'RE KINDA *ANNOYING*.
AN' YOU'RE *NOT* INTERESTED IN BEIN' THE *NEXT* FLASH, HUH?
LET JAY FILL THE BOOTS AGAIN. *MY* SPEED'S *GONE*, WILDCAT.
I JUST WISH I'D BEEN FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE CONNER.
WE *ALL* DO, BART.
YOU CAN LET GO, BEA.
NOT YET. J'ONN.
DIDN'T YOU SAY RALPH WOULD BE HERE...?
LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GETTING ACCOUNTED FOR. IT'S...*NICE*.
SUPERMAN, BATMAN AND WONDER WOMAN ARE DUE TO BEGIN IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, SIR.

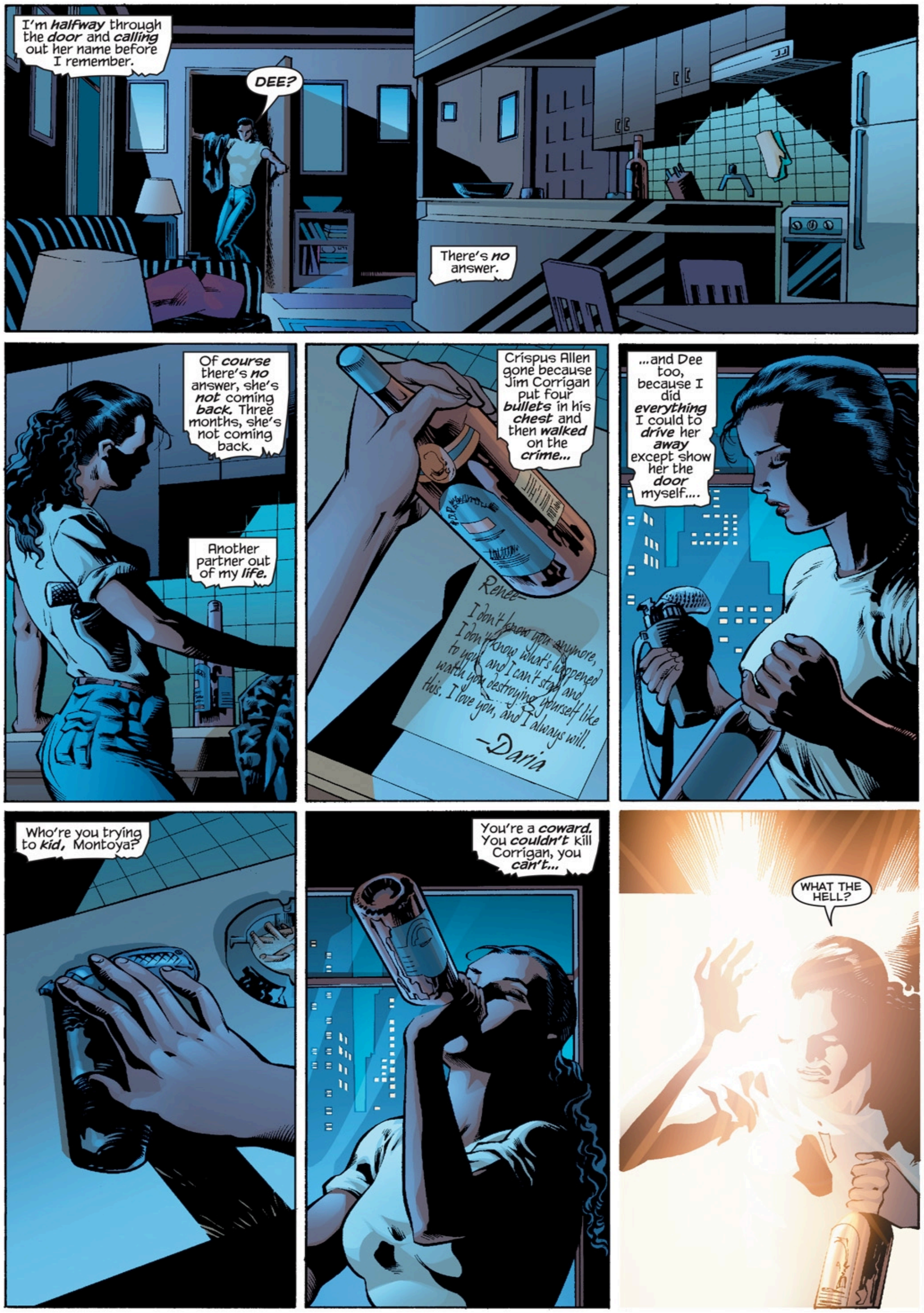

...'COURSE WE SAVED THE WORLD. C'MON NOW. WE GOT WONDER WOMAN BACK ON OUR SIDE...
...ASSUME SUPERMAN'S GOING TO GIVE THE EULOGY. HE HAS TO.
AND THEN PROBABLY SOME BIG ***RAH-RAH*** SPEECH ABOUT ***PEACE*** AND ***BROTHERHOOD*** AND ALL ***THAT*** CRAP.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE ***CAMERA,*** GUY.
SO, WHERE ARE ***SUPERMAN, BATMAN*** AND ***WONDER WOMAN?***

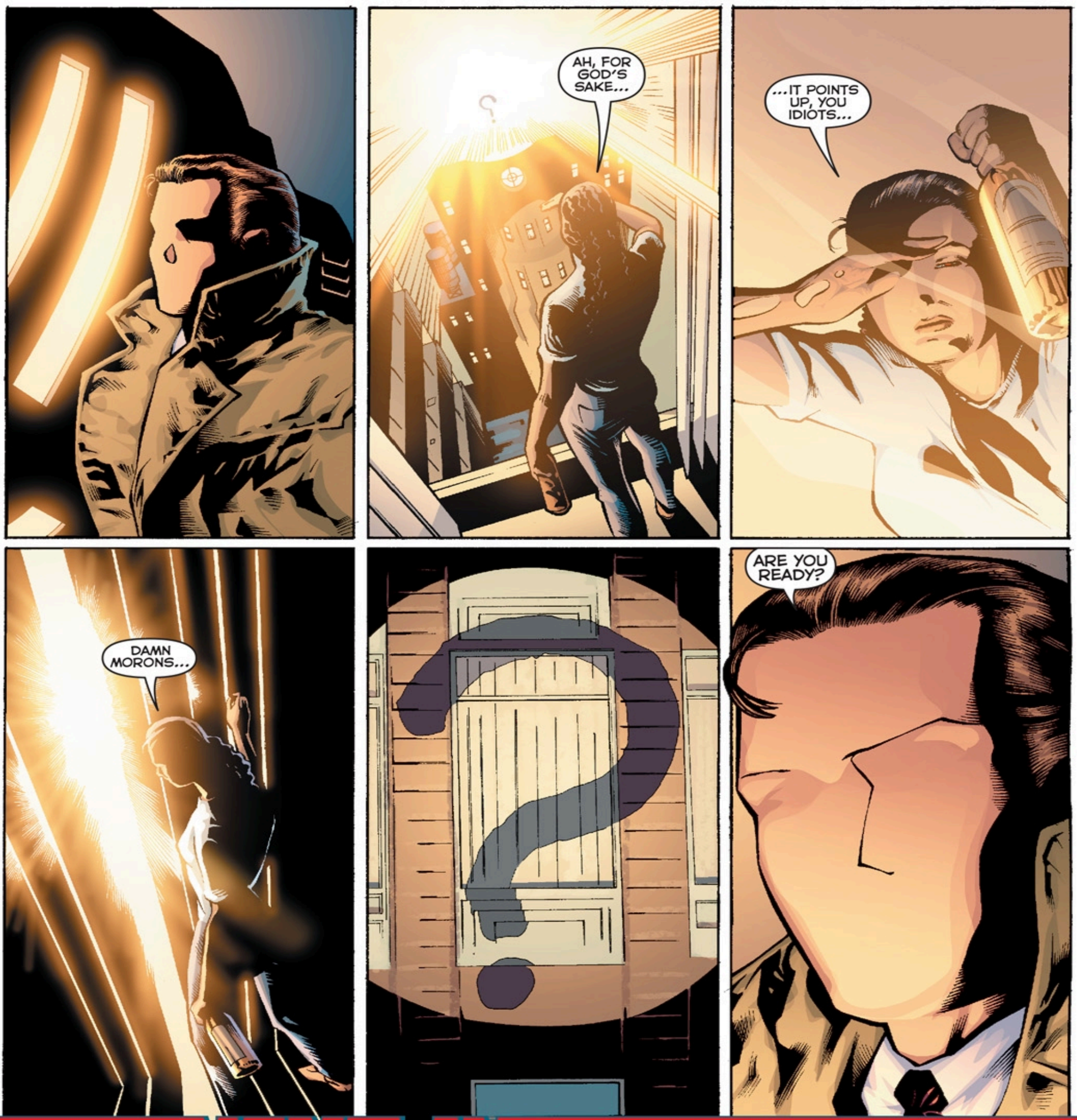

GNN
...I'D SUGGEST WORKING YOUR WAY TO THE STAGE.
THEY'LL *BE* HERE, KID. JUST RELAX.
FOUR
THREE SECONDS TO THE *BIG MOMENT*, SIR...
...*TWO*
ONE.


TA-DAAAAAAAA--
...?
:KOFF:
WHAT'S HE DOIN', *ANNOUNCIN'* HIMSELF?
HE *WOULD.*
WHERE *ARE* THEY, SKEETS?
THEY SHOU*1010001* BE HERE, SIR. THE TIME--
--IS 4:32! AND I DON'T SEE THEM. *ANYWHERE!*
BOOSTER, A LITTLE *DECORUM,* PLEASE...?
NO! NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, J'ONN. SKEETS, CHECK THE RECORDS AGAIN!
I'M PROCESSING THEM AT *TERABYTES* A PIC*00110000*SECOND, SIR. THEY *ALL* INDIC*00110*TE A 4:30 APPEARANCE!
4:35 AND *COUNTING,* SKEETS! YOUR *CLOCK* IS OFF!
ATOMIC TIME, SIR! SOMETHING'S WR*000110*NG! SOM*110*THING'S *WROOOO--*


KZZZTTTTT
SKEETS!
BOOSTER, WILL YOU SETTLE DOWN?
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHERE ARE THEY?
WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?
WHERE ARE WHO, BOOSTER?
I'M TALKIN' ABOUT SUPERMAN AND BATMAN, YOU CHUCKHEAD! WONDER WOMAN!
THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON THEM! I KNOW! I'VE SEEN IT! I--
OLSEN?
BOOSTER--!
TAKE THE PICTURE, OLSEN! TAKE THE PICTURE!
THEY'RE HERE! THEY HAVE TO BE HERE!
THIS IS YOUR HOWITZER!
GREAT H'RONMEER, HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! HOLD HIM!
WHERE ARE--?
BOOSTER, THEY'RE NOT COMING! THEY GNNNGH!
KRAK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEY'RE NOT COMING?
HOW THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?
DAILY PLANET
I JUST KNOW.
AND I'M SORRY.


Week 1, Day 7
CHAK
I CAN SEE YOU.


I'm *halfway* through the *door* and *calling* out her name before I remember.
DEE?
There's *no* answer.
Of *course* there's *no* answer, she's *not* coming *back.* Three months, she's not coming back.
Another partner out of my *life.*
Crispus Allen gone because Jim Corrigan put four *bullets* in his *chest* and then *walked* on the *crime...*
Renee—
I don't know you anymore, I don't know what's happened to you, and I can't stay and watch you destroying yourself like this. I love you, and I always will.
—Daria
...and Dee too, because I did *everything* I could to *drive* her *away* except show her the *door* myself....
Who're you trying to *kid,* Montoya?
You're a *coward.* You *couldn't* kill Corrigan, you *can't...*
WHAT THE HELL?


AH, FOR GOD'S SAKE...
...IT POINTS UP, YOU IDIOTS...
DAMN MORONS...
ARE YOU READY?

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